

# Southern Cottage COMFORT & JOY

FRESH  
TWISTS  
*on Christmas  
Traditions*



CELEBRATE IN  
SOUTHERN STYLE  
*Easy, elegant  
entertaining ideas*

From the Editors of Cottages & Bungalows  
Winter 2015 • \$9.99 US • Display until 11/24/15  
64  
Engaged Media Inc.  
0 09281 102373 9

# Contents

## Classic Christmas

### 10 A Custom Holiday Haven

Discover this Texas couple's Craftsman home that's perfect for the holidays—and every other season too.

By Karina Rivera

### 24 A Collector's Christmas

Learn how to best display your cherished pieces amid the traditional holiday trimmings.

By Meryl Schoenbaum

### 40 Earth Angel

See how classic collections really come to life with the magic of the Christmas season.

By Marissa Armstrong



## Fresh & Festive

### 52 Merry & Bright

Glittery textures, brightly layered accents and nostalgic holiday favorites come together in this inviting home.

By Jickie Torres

### 66 Christmas by the Coast

Check out this charming 1915 cottage given a cool, calming makeover to become the ideal retreat for any time of year.

By Tria Giovan

### 78 Deck the Halls with a Twist

Have fun with tradition and try these updated holiday motifs and colors this year.

By Autumn Krause



## A Country Holiday

### 90 An Americana Holiday

Learn how this historic cottage transformed for Christmas with plenty of Old World traditions and 18th-century charm.

By Tria Giovan/GAP Interiors

### 104 A Christmas Bounty

See how this Georgia cottage comes alive with a family's favorite holiday traditions.

By Torrey Kim

## Holiday Entertaining

### 6 Get the Look

Red and gold take center stage during the Christmas season. Here are our favorite ways to decorate with this color palette.

By Jickie Torres

### 116 Table Talk

Get this designer's creative ideas on setting five different seasonal festive tables as well as her tips on designing your own.

By Victoria Van Vlear

## Etc.

### 4 Editor's Letter

### 124 Cottage Charm

### 128 Sources

### 130 Stay Awhile

Cover photography by David Brittain/timeincukcontent.com



# Southern Cottage

## WINTER 2015

### EDITORIAL

**Editorial Director/Editor:** Jickie Torres  
**Art Director:** Gabby Oh  
**Managing Editor:** Anne Brink

**Contributing Editors:** Jacqueline deMontravel,  
Sarah Jane O'Keefe, Victoria Van Vlear  
**Editorial Interns:** Ashley Burnett,  
Rebekah Wahlberg

### CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS

Bret Gum, Laura Moss, Jaimee Itagaki, Kevin Palmer, Kay Ellen Hammar, David Brittain, Trevor Kobrin, Dan Piassick, Rett Peek,  
Tria Giovan

### CONTRIBUTORS

Meryl Schoenbaum, Autumn Krause, Torrey Kim,  
Marissa Armstrong, Karina Rivera

### ADVERTISING

**Gabe Frimmel** - Ad Sales Director  
gfrimmel@engagedmediainc.com (714) 200-1930  
**Donna Silva Norris** - Senior Account Executive  
(714) 200-1933  
**Eric Gomez** - Ad Traffic Coordinator

### DIRECT MARKETING GROUP

**John Bartulin** - (866) 866-5146 ext. 2746

### OPERATIONS

**Gus Alonso**: Newsstand Sales & Marketing Manager  
**Celia Merriday**: Newsstand Analyst  
**Shailesh Khandelwal**: Subscription Manager

### EDITORIAL, PRODUCTION & SALES OFFICE

22840 Savi Ranch Parkway, Suite 200  
Yorba Linda, CA 92887  
(714) 939-9991 Fax (800) 249-7761

Southern Cottage © 2015 by Engaged Media, Inc.  
All rights reserved. Reproduction of any material from  
this issue in whole or in part is strictly prohibited.

### CUSTOMER SERVICE

**ENGAGED MEDIA, INC.**  
22840 Savi Ranch Parkway, Suite 200  
Yorba Linda, CA 92887

**SUBSCRIPTIONS, ADDRESS CHANGES,  
RENEWALS, MISSING OR DAMAGED COPIES**  
(800) 764-6278 • (239) 653-0225 Foreign Inquiries  
subscriptions@engagedmediainc.com  
customerservice@engagedmediainc.com

**BACK ISSUES**  
www.engagedmediamags.com

**BOOKS, MERCHANDISE, REPRINTS**  
(800) 764-6278

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR, NEW PRODUCTS OR  
TO CONTRIBUTE A STORY OR PHOTO**  
Jickie Torres: jtorres@engagedmediainc.com

**Engaged  
Media Inc.**

**ENGAGED MEDIA, INC.**  
**Nick Singh**: President  
**Vikas Malhotra**: Vice President



## TO ONE AND TO ALL

CHRISTMAS IS SUCH A MEANINGFUL TIME, IN MANY WAYS. When the spirit of the season is in full force, being kinder to one another happens without an extra thought. You find joy more often throughout the day, whether from finally finding the perfect gift for the hubby, watching little ones take their first pictures with Santa in the mall or finding yourself humming Christmas songs absentmindedly while doing the most mundane of chores. Everything becomes a cheerful event.

And at home, where we retreat for a season of calmer, more silent nights, the spirit that we infuse into our environment becomes even more important. This issue was crafted with appreciation for the Christmas at home in mind. In this issue you'll discover how traditions never die; they simply grow from house to house, through the generations. You'll also see ways to have fun with your seasonal style and keep things fresh. After all, 'tis the season to be merry. May your holiday home be a safe, inspiring and beautiful space.

Jickie Torres  
Editor

*Get the Look*





# Festive Elegance

Present a formal living room that is well edited yet cozy and classic.

BY JICKIE TORRES

PHOTOGRAPHY BY DAVID BRITTAINE/TIMEINCUKCONTENT.COM

**C**reate a cheerful gathering space that blends the best of your personal style with the season's most cheerful looks. This luxurious living room is done in bold, rich red and glittering gold for an elegantly eye-catching look. The open fire beckons as a welcoming feature that pulls guests right in, and the velvet sofas, armchair and footstool make the room a special occasion. Here's how to get the look in your own holiday home.

#### • **Classic Color Combo**

Red and gold are a timeless Christmas tradition. Embrace the look by swapping out your everyday pillows and throws for more accents in red. Break up the color and add contrasts with a few gold pieces—there's no harm in adding more throws than usual this time of year, as you want to create an ultra cozy look.

#### • **Make It Shimmer**

From the gilt mirror to the crystal candles and beaded accents, play up reflective surfaces. Just like the fairy lights on the Christmas tree, these elements will add a festive twinkle that pulls your eye all across the room.

#### • **Edit Your Holiday Accents**

The simple color palette gives an air of sophistication to the design and allows gracefully tailored details such as the spindle caster-wheeled legs of the furnishings to make an impact in the room. Choose a simple theme for your tree and carry those motifs around the room in easy ways.

#### • **Simplify Your Mantel**

By opting for one stocking instead of many and keeping the fresh pine garland elegantly arranged in a minimalistic line across the mantel, the focal point of the room looks less cluttered and better curated. You can also drop a few small, simple ornaments from your swag for a touch of whimsy and unexpected fun.



# C CLASSIC *CHRISTMAS*

**RED AND GREEN.** Just like mistletoe, these colors are tried and true symbols of Christmas. Traditionalists know that, according to family custom, each year we dust off our same beloved stockings and polish up the holiday Spode china just like the year before. The warm smiles of nostalgia when familiar favorites appear make elements like these that much more treasured. These homes celebrate timeless style in all its warm and inviting glory.



# A CUSTOM HOLIDAY Haven

A Texas couple's new Craftsman is the perfect home for the holidays—and any other season.

BY KARINA RIVERA  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY TREVOR KOBIN  
STYLING BY HELGA ALVARADO

**Gorgeous Greens.** Seafoam-green walls complement the grand tree in the living room, where the coffered ceilings add a cozy elegance. "We added seaside-inspired touches, which are brighter and cleaner looking," Trinh says of her choice of accessories. "The look of the kitchen, the pendant lights in the foyer and the colors are all seaside-inspired," she says.





**Cozy Nooks.** The Kuos opted to keep the built-in aspect of Craftsman style. This bookshelf dons large mercury-glass kugels for the holidays. A basket of extra presents makes this a popular seating area.

**T**hink long and hard about your wish list, because with a custom approach to remodeling your home, your wishes can easily come true. At first glance, Trinh and Gene Kuo's home looks as if it has always been a part of the historic Houston Heights, Texas, neighborhood—but their modern Craftsman is actually the newest addition to the area, custom-built just three years ago. From an open floor plan to comfy exterior porches and backyard hardscaping, the Kuos are set for holiday hosting in their entertainers' dream house. By building from scratch, Trinh and Gene were able to create a home with historical charm, modern convenience and none of the pitfalls that typically come with owning an older home, such as dated plumbing and small closets.

---

**All That Glitters.** Fresh evergreen garlands give the mantel a stately presence, while mercury-glass ornaments and votives along with a glittery putz-style church truly make the mantel shine.





## Open Floor Plan, Easy Decorating

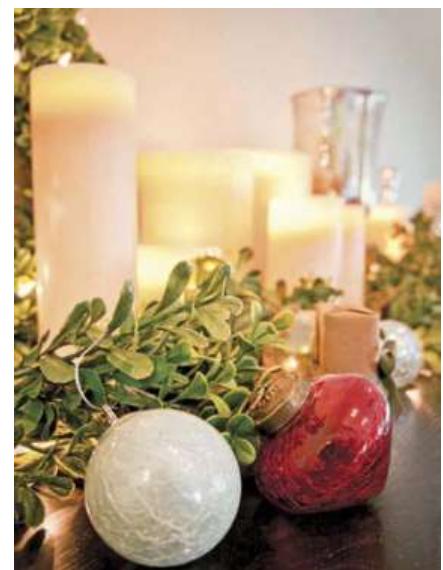
Their spacious living room with its generous bank of windows (another contemporary touch) is the perfect space to showcase their nearly 10-foot Fraser fir tree. Since the spacious living room is the most visible room in the house, Trinh and Gene tend to give it the most attention when putting up holiday decorations. The coffered ceiling and custom crown molding is the perfect backdrop to the simple, natural décor Trinh chooses for the holidays. Fresh green garland swags and

potted topiaries combine with elegant mercury-glass and silver ornaments and accessories for a chic yet warm look. The sunlit French doors leading to the patio are adorned with fresh wreaths finished off with bright-green satin ribbons—a subtle yet elegant motif Trinh uses throughout. Her other holiday touches are simple: arrange old ornaments in unexpected places such as in a few bowls, at the base of house plants and on shelves next to the year-round décor. She also scatters the presents around the room like festive surprises.



**1 Merry and Bright.** The living room furniture straddles the line between transitional and cozy contemporary, but the Arts and Crafts area rug adds a definitive nod to the era.

**2 Easy Updates.** Faux snow and mini glass ornaments in a bowl are an easy and elegant accent for the holidays.



**Happy Cooking.** A modern kitchen sets the custom-built home apart from historic Craftsman houses. Small holiday decorations such as a mini gingerbread house and vases filled with festive flowers keep counter space usable.



Every window is adorned with a festive wreath—an elegant way to spread holiday cheer without cluttering the home's spaces.



"We pored over every detail. But in the end, we can basically say that what we created is our own."



### ***Christmas in Every Room***

The living room opens to the large, modern kitchen with Carrara marble and Caesarstone countertops. Every window is adorned with a festive wreath—an elegant way to spread holiday cheer without cluttering the home's spaces. "We used real greenery—definitely a nicer touch than the fake greenery," Trinh says. Because people tend to gather in kitchens, they are ideal rooms for holiday

decorating. The Kuos' kitchen is laced with fresh, festively colored flowers, small holiday knickknacks and a diminutive feather tree. Smaller holiday items are great to display on kitchen countertops, windowsills and tables because they allow the décor to be festive without taking up the coveted workspace.

Besides the living room and kitchen, the Kuos find themselves spending a great deal of time in the master suite and

study, which they have also dressed up for the holidays—bedrooms and bathrooms are wonderful areas to spread holiday cheer. Trinh and Gene's master bedroom features its own Christmas tree—a smaller Fraser about 5 feet tall. In their bedroom and throughout the home the couple has elegantly incorporated pops of bright red into their holiday décor, which looks beautiful against the dark floors.



**Modern Craftsman.** The couple wanted an open floor plan and a more "streamlined" look, opting out of some of the traditional Arts and Crafts architectural elements like big, exaggerated pillars, which aren't the couple's style. However, they did incorporate their favorite Craftsman touches, like built-in bookcases, casement windows, plenty of wood trim and molding,



The fresh greenery (garlands, wreaths and trees) throughout the house infuses it with a Christmas aroma.





**Merry Room.** Every room deserves a tree during the holidays. In the master bedroom, a smaller 4-foot fir stands proud near the seating area, ensuring the time to enjoy the holidays is every day. The bed is redone in holly-red velvet for a sumptuously seasonal update.



## RESOURCEFUL MODERN HOLIDAY *Decorating*

This year you can give your décor a festive look without braving the holiday aisle at your local crowded megastore.

Just repurpose things you probably have around the house.

### • Gather together your holiday colors.

Use items that fall into a holiday color scheme—red and white stripes or polka dots, gold damask, green floral prints. Mix and match to create a unique holiday look made up of pieces that can be used all year long.

### • Use natural décor.

Recall the rich texture of the season by infusing your spaces with local greenery. Snip pine branches, gather pinecones and harvest the flora growing right outside your door to give your décor a rustic yet elegant look. Using a bevy of green garlands as your main theme gives you a fresh, chic look.

### • Add ribbons and bows.

Bows work wonders for your existing décor and instantly spell holiday. Try pinning a green bow to the top of the white towels hanging in your bathroom—it's Christmas without the reindeer or holly. Tie ribbons around candles, doorknobs or vases for a quick way to fancy up your year-round accessories.

### • Repurpose items you already own.

Bring in a cast-iron urn from your garden to use as your Christmas tree base. Just cut a piece of cardboard the size of the base to protect your floor before bringing the urn indoors. Or turn an old chipped paint ladder into a spot to display Christmas cards.



**Pattern Play.** The study, one of the most used rooms in the house, has received a holiday makeover. The built-in shelving provides lots of space for holiday knickknacks. Custom-made Roman balloon-shade window coverings add a sophisticated touch.

**Living Large.** The living room is spacious enough to showcase many wonderful pieces, such as custom-made cabinets set against the back wall, a huge (60" x 40") coffee table, large sofas, wing chairs, a loveseat and a stylish ottoman with a colorful bargello (flame-stitch) needlepoint pattern.



# A Collector's Christmas

A photograph of a traditional living room decorated for Christmas. A white sofa with patterned pillows sits in the foreground. To its left is a plaid armchair and a small round table with wrapped gifts. In the background, there's a fireplace with a mantel decorated with greenery, a grandfather clock, and stockings hanging from the mantel. A large wooden cabinet stands behind the sofa. The overall atmosphere is warm and festive.

Here's how to display your cherished pieces amid the traditional holiday trimmings.

BY MERYL SCHOENBAUM

PHOTOGRAPHY BY DAN PIASSICK

INTERIOR DESIGN BY MARGARET CHAMBERS, ASID



**Season's Greetings.** A low brick wall with symmetrical boxwood plants (a classic element in English and French garden designs), pansies and kale greets guests at the path to the front door.







What are your go-to Christmas decorations? Chances are, when you open your storage boxes you'll pull out shiny ornaments, ropes of tiny (tangled) lights, a sentimental tree topper and several accessories depicting Santa Claus. The owner of this Highland Park, Texas, home also collects Santas, but she cross-stitched them herself, and they line the walls, shelves and tabletops in each room every year, giving the classic European décor a personal touch of merriment.

When you step inside the front door, you'll admire the predominantly English (mixed with French) architecture that you'd guess was built many years ago—but your assumption would be wrong. This home was built in 2012, but was constructed with period details to make it appear as though it has been there for decades.

Interior designer Margaret Chambers, of Chambers Interiors & Associates, Inc., in Dallas, Texas, was brought into the new-build project at the planning stage. The homeowner, who loves to decorate for Christmas, knew she wanted a neutral color scheme and natural fabrics to complement the traditional architecture and showcase her collections, but she couldn't envision how to incorporate all the elements, so she called in Margaret to get the look right.

---

**Bright Idea.** The colors of the holiday season add warmth to the keeping room, seen in its entirety here. From the Christmas tree's colorful lights to the Santa collection, the room comes alive with color. Custom-made bifold panels close up to hide the flat-screen TV on the wall. Old French doors found at an antiques shop hang on the wall as architectural-salvage art.





**Hot Spot.** This area of the sitting room is the perfect place to relax and get warm. An antique French table is at the far right, while built-in bookshelves flank the fireplace. An antique mirror rests on the mantel surrounded by hurricane-glass candlesticks.





"The client's cross-stitch hobby provided us with tons of art to hang on the walls."

**First Impressions.** Guests arrive to see an expansive hallway featuring 6-inch planks of quartersawn, lightly distressed, red-oak flooring in a mix of coffee and antique stains; front doors made of walnut to blend in with the flooring; reproduction French ladder-back seating; a console table and several of the hundreds of cross-stitched Santa needlepoints made by the homeowner lining the ledge.



**1 Holiday Display.** This section of the dining room shows the homeowner's collection of creamware, which stands out against the dark oak of the wall-mounted hutches. The stenciled damask print on the upholstery of the dining-room chairs is striking too.

**2 Attention to Detail.** The intricate designs of the homeowner's creamware Nativity pieces and pierced English serveware can be appreciated in this detail shot.

## Team Building

"We began working with the clients, architects (Fusch Architects) and builders (Joe Kain Homes) in 2011, and chose all the finishes and materials," Margaret says. "The 13,801-square-foot home is located in the affluent enclave of Highland Park. It has four bedrooms, five full bathrooms, two powder rooms, a formal great room, a cozy keeping room off the kitchen, two outdoor kitchens, a catering kitchen and an elevator."

Margaret listened to the homeowner's requests and tapped into her design instincts and experience to decorate the rooms in the classic style you see here with the help of her project assistant, Allen Keith.



**Fine Dining.** An archway, designed by the architect with panel details for an old-home appearance, offers a view into the dining room with its custom-made table, parquet oak flooring and hand-forged black iron chandelier. Designer Margaret Chambers had the idea to also include a panel design on the ceiling for continuity and added interest.



The newly built home was constructed with period details to make it appear as though it has been there for decades.



**Kitchen Tradition.** In the foreground, a small section of the keeping room, a gathering spot next to the kitchen, reveals the homeowner's affinity for the ladder-back chairs that surround an oak table. The kitchen island is stained black with a distressed wood top that has a marine varnish on it.





"The client knew exactly what she wanted, which was a color scheme of primarily taupes, blacks and creams with a few accents of red," Margaret says. "She likes the casualness of linen fabrics and didn't want any velvets or silks. She also wanted to use as many pieces of her existing furniture as possible, so we reupholstered 17 pieces."

Margaret had several pieces custom made to fit the scale of the rooms and the homeowners' lifestyle. "Our first

goal is to always make each room functional," she explains. "We built large armoires that we copied from an English antique and expanded them in scale. The large coffee table was inspired by a photo from a magazine the homeowner liked. We made custom vanities for the powder rooms and constructed wrought-iron twin canopy beds for a guest room. Nothing was used from the homeowners' previous house without being reupholstered."



1

**1 Inviting Guest Room.** Guests feel very welcome in this room as they rest in the custom-made iron beds with upholstered headboards. Matelasse and toile bedding bring romantic softness to the bedframe. The toile design is repeated in a large pillow; a zebra print adds another interesting pattern to the room. The flooring is the same quarter-sawn oak as in the rest of the house.

**2 Christmas Corner.** The corner of the fireplace mantel exudes seasonal style with stockings, a garland with pinecones, a tiny boxwood tree and a lantern.

**3 French Bench.** A handmade, cross-stitched Christmas pillow rests on the reproduction antique French-style bench in the entryway.

Margaret's favorite aspects of the project are the contrasting colors and tiles. "Since the house is so neutral, I love the contrast between the rich, dark woods with the light walls and fabrics," she says. "I also love the tiles in all the bathrooms. They are all natural, but the different patterns make them interesting. If someone wanted to add more color, the tile would still work."





**Stylish Seating.** Generous seating, including a graceful gooseneck chair, affords guests a respite. Botanical prints add a touch of color to the neutral palette.

## Holiday Home

Christmas is a special time for the homeowners, and they enjoy displaying their holiday decorations and collections. "For the Christmas decorations, we kept everything casual with linen, burlap and cotton," Margaret says. "It was a priority for them that the house feel inviting so guests feel welcomed and don't think it's 'too fancy.' The client's cross-stitch hobby provided us with tons of art to hang on the walls."

Other collections from the owner that Margaret placed throughout the home for the holidays include ceramic creamware

pieces and Nativity scenes. The pierced-pattern English creamware and crèches (the homeowner has at least 20 of them) are showcased in dark oak plate racks mounted on the walls.

Christmas-tree lights are in the brightly colored traditional style of the rest of the home, adding warmth and charm.

Margaret and the homeowners are more than pleased with the outcome. "The design style is traditional and timeless, not trendy," Margaret says. Best of all, it is a home that surrounds the owners with their favorite things all year long.



**Super Soaker.** The guest master bath suite features a pedestal tub. Basketweave tile was used on the floor. The little French chair and table are antiques. A cross-stitch sampler made by the homeowner dresses up the wall.

## Get the Look

Margaret Chambers shares her tips for recreating the look in your own home and working with a designer.

• **As a designer,** I want to see lots of photos of rooms my clients love and what appeals to them. I want to know what colors they like, because your décor is about your feelings as much as it is visual. What one person is attracted to, another person is not. I want my clients to show me all the things they want to keep, such as their grandma's heirloom china. I'm not a dictator as a designer. I never start a project without getting that information from clients.

• **When you think of traditional style,** you think of patterns and antiques.

• **If you're on a tight budget,** go to estate sales. It's a great way to find big pieces. Large pieces, like antique or vintage dining tables and chairs, usually are priced at less than retail.

• **You can always change the fabric on a piece of furniture,** so look at the frame of the piece and don't pass it up based on the upholstery.

# EARTH Angel

See how classic collections come to life with the magic of Christmas.

BY MARISSA ARMSTRONG  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY JAIMEE ITAGAKI  
STYLING BY JACQUELINE DEMONTRAVEL

**Collectible Showcase.** A wooden bowl holds a mix of antique cherubs and new ornaments for a dynamic display of collectibles.



**O Tannenbaum.** The tall Christmas tree reaches up into the vaulted exposed-beam ceiling. Kathleen says you should always go for the tallest tree you can fit into your home. "This is the time of year when you want things to feel grand," she says.





2

**C**hristmas carries a sense of tradition. For Kathleen Francour, it is a time to recall childhood memories and a chance to break out her favorite red dishes. Living near the beach, Kathleen is afforded an assortment of nautical inspirations, yet they are second to the classic motifs of the season. Using a pinch of sparkle, a dash of gold and silver and a splash of love, she transforms her holiday home one collectible at a time.

### **Plan Ahead**

"I love to shop the after-Christmas sales and pick up all kinds of wonderful things for some future holiday whimsy," Kathleen says. "It's like a treasure hunt digging through the attic to see what strikes my fancy any given year. I just start pulling things together and see what I come up with." Although tradition is important to Kathleen, she is not one to do the same thing every Christmas.

This year she infused a bit of that seaside touch in subtle ways. She and her granddaughters find artificial starfish, seahorses and shells; spray paint them silver and gold; and then embellish them with glitter to make them sparkle.

"It's a wonderful craft project to do with children," Kathleen says. "And the ornaments are beautiful." Much of the festive décor is the result of such projects and fond memories.

**1 Golden Glow.** Gold glass orbs send ethereal light all throughout the room, while glitter accents make it feel fun.

**2 Holiday Bounty.** One family tradition is a plain wooden bowl filled with tangerines. They offer Kathleen, her family and guests a glimpse of Christmas past. "When I was a little girl, Santa didn't leave toys and candy canes in our stockings—we got oranges, tangerines, apples and nuts."

## Celebrate in Style.

Kathleen pulls out all the stops for the dining room during the holidays. Vintage linens represent the past and add unique memories to the setting, while bold red and gold layers add glamour.





**DIY Darlings.** These icy ornaments hang from the dining room chandelier for a dazzling display.

Kathleen adds white glittery powder to these open-faced ornaments to mimic snow; a votive inside casts a glow on the table.



## **Homemade Décor**

Kathleen, an artist and graphic designer, often hosts crafts nights, and many times they yield the décor she ends up using throughout the year. One such weekend yielded frames made with domed mantel clock glass soldered to a backing of a vintage Christmas card collage.

"I love and collect vintage paper, and I have a large collection of vintage Christmas cards," Kathleen says. "I display them in all sorts of places during the holidays."

She also has a set of inexpensive lampshades that only make their appearance during the holidays. "I have sprayed the interior of the shades with a soft, golden glittery floral design that glistens when the lights are on," Kathleen says. "It's very simple and elegant but magical too."

She also uses family heirlooms to craft small festive touches. Old cookie cutters, for instance, easily become tree ornaments, and she selects all the red and green options from her collection of old quilts to add cozy holiday style to her rooms.



**Red Revelry.** Swap out the everyday china cabinet collection with all holiday colors and collections for a fresh, festive look.



## Make It *Sparkle*

Kathleen uses glitter and gold to dress up the simplest decorations and create a magical Christmas glow. With just a few sprays you can have your own winter wonderland.

**Ornaments:** Most Christmas trees are dressed with simple, globe-like ornaments. This year, spray them with glitter and watch your tree glisten. Also try craft stores for inexpensive yet festive objects, and spray them with gold and silver or whatever color scheme you choose.

**Candles:** Boxes full of tin tea lights are inexpensive and easily dressed up. Simply spray paint the tin holder with your color of choice, let it dry, light the candle and enjoy. It's an easy way to spread holiday color and glow throughout your home.

**Light:** Find a plain white lampshade that you can easily decorate for the season. Spray the inside with glitter to make the room sparkle.



**Old & New.** Part of Kathleen's vintage Christmas card collection is displayed in front of each dish in the china hutch.





Merry  
Christmas

**Winter Welcome.** Augment your front door décor by hanging holiday signs from your wreath. Large pots of poinsettias add bold color and give your home an extra dose of curb appeal.

## **Christmas Past and Present**

Christmas is a time when her various collections come to life. One of her favorites is her collection of angels. She has a few that can be found around her home throughout the year, but at Christmas they receive honorary placement. Her favorite is an impressive angel over the fireplace, its wingspan stretching eight feet wide. It was one of her first purchases when she moved into her home.

Now Kathleen's Christmas décor is the perfect blend of past and present, homemade and flea-market finds. At the dinner table, all four elements come together. The table is dressed with an antique floral drapery from 1910, which has yellowed with age to the perfect shade of a warm golden brown. It is then set with mosaic-patterned Haviland china that belonged to her grandmother and red crystal that was her mother's in the 1960s, stacked on golden chargers and topped with gold pear candles from an after-Christmas sale.

Hanging above the table is a chandelier gently draped with a sheer gold garland. Glass globes hang from the arms, each with a few tablespoons of iridescent white glitter to resemble the magic of snow and a tea light candle spray-painted gold.

Though Kathleen loves her vast collections and enjoys the rituals of craft making, sometimes her decorations can be as simple as a handful of buttons. "There are so many interesting little things lying around, but it's easy to stop seeing what is right in front of us," Kathleen says. "A handful of buttons, seashells or vintage jewelry in a crystal bowl can be quite beautiful any time of year."



**Cozy Corner.** A berry-spray wreath is all that's needed to add more Christmas spirit to this nook. It's also a wonderful way to winterize your view if you live in a snowless climate.



# FRESH & FESTIVE

PUTTING A NOVEL SPIN ON TRADITION HAS YIELDED A FAIR SHARE OF NEW CLASSICS. Just think about rockin' around the Christmas tree while doing the "Jingle Bell Hop." These homes have fun with our notion of the holiday spirit. From nontraditional color schemes that have carved out a place in our holiday hearts to unexpected styles, accents and motifs, discover through these inspiring and creative designs how we grow to personalize what Christmas means to us in our homes.



**Room with a View.** Small, simple wreaths hung on the windows ensure that every view is full of Christmas spirit.



**Enhance the View.** A minimalist yet elegant pine wreath gives the landscape a bit of holiday perspective.

# Merry & Bright

Put the joy back into Christmas decorating, and play with color, texture and accents for a fun and memorable holiday.

BY JICKIE TORRES • PHOTOGRAPHY BY LAURA MOSS/PHOTOSHOT

### **Full of Presents.**

Don't forget that your Christmas presents become part of the décor throughout the season. So let your wrap complement your design for maximum effect.



hen else can you trot out glittery blue reindeer and chubby elves and make them part of your daily family table? There are so many fun motifs and festive characters that comprise the holiday season, why not embrace the kitsch just a bit and infuse your Christmas décor with some winter whimsy?

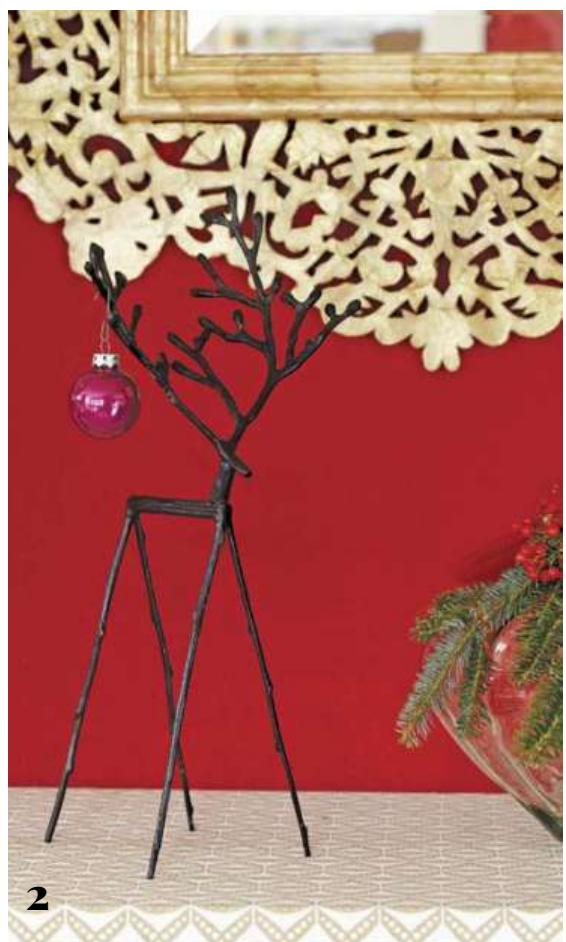
### **Make an Entrance.**

The red accent wall proves that the young couple has a penchant for bright, bold color. Two chambray poufs fill up the area and provide flexible occasional seating for holiday parties.





**Blue Christmas.** A few bright tones of blue add winter whimsy to the holiday table. The glittery deer signals that this isn't your average seasonal affair and makes a memorable impression.



1



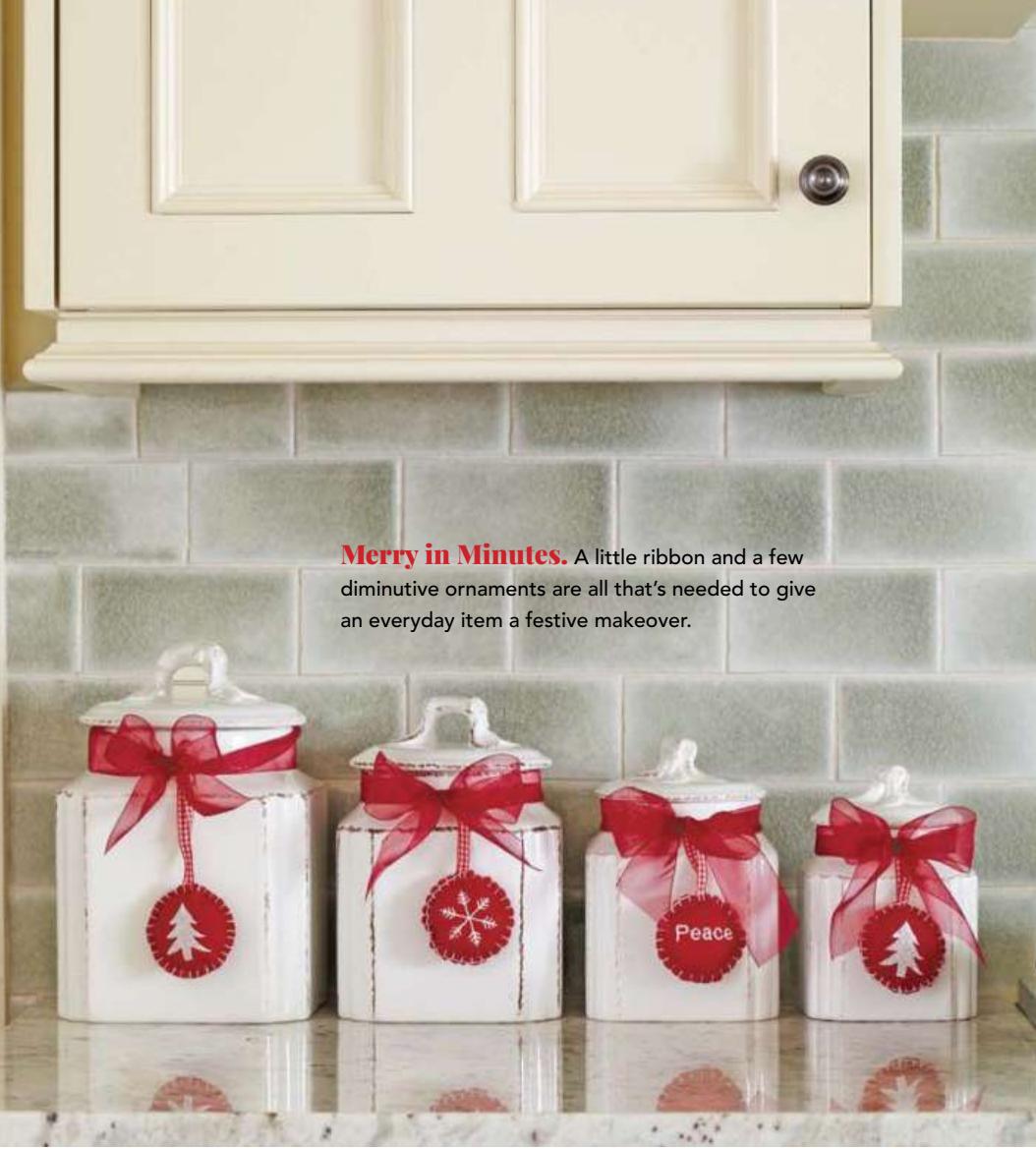
2

Get creative and add festive fresh boughs on chair backs and on cabinet fronts—it's a simple, fast way to add holiday décor in prominent places.

**1 Winter Bouquets.** Bundles of holly, berry sprigs and pine tied with festive ribbon make for quick and easy updates when hung from china cabinet knobs and door fronts.

**2 Keep It Simple.** Rather than end up with seasonal décor that only appears for a short window of time, the couple chose a few key accents that will last all through the winter months.

**3 Seat of Honor.** Give your dining room a grand dose of holiday style by embellishing the chair backs with fresh pine swags.



**Merry in Minutes.** A little ribbon and a few diminutive ornaments are all that's needed to give an everyday item a festive makeover.

From easy organza ribbon tied around the plain white canisters in the kitchen to the silk-trimmed sheer ribbon used in lieu of holiday napkin rings, **each special touch adds a festive layer to everyday items.**

---

### **Color Me Christmas**

The young owners of this family home in the Fairfield Plantation area of Villa Rica, Georgia, designed their interior to be fresh, modern and causal. With blue subway tile in the kitchen and red accent walls in the entry and living room, it's clear they aren't afraid of color.

So when it came time to choose their holiday accents, they opted to keep the bright and lively color palette flowing through the décor. They chose bright cherry red and icy blue as the main combo. Fresh pine branches and garlands along with plenty of holly, berry sprigs and poinsettias bring in a lush look that makes each room feel full and vibrant.





**Holiday Central.** The homeowners opted to keep the kitchen clear and uncluttered since so much Christmas action takes place here. The blue hand-glazed subway tile perfectly complements the small touches of red in the simple seasonal accents.

**Green Garlands.** Tinsel trees and a few clippings of pine, holly and other seasonal greens tucked into the mix create a charming mantel full of personality. Layer the florals with a crafty garland for extra shine.



## **Easy Holiday Updates**

In many cases, the holiday décor isn't new at all, but rather everyday items kicked up a notch with a few embellishments. One go-to trick is ribbon. From easy organza ribbon tied around the plain white canisters in the kitchen to the silk-trimmed sheer ribbon used in lieu of holiday napkin rings, each special touch adds a festive layer to everyday items.

Also, instead of going overboard on Christmas-themed accents, the young couple opted for a few carefully chosen décor items that would last through several seasons. For instance, the wrought-iron deer statuette taking pride of place in the entryway works for fall and all through the winter months.

**1 Three Turtledoves.** The earthy Manzanita branches make for a chic sculptural accent all year long, but during the holidays a few birds get perched on top for a quaint touch.



### **Tree Trimming.**

The oversized tree makes a grand statement in the living room. More gold accents add to the Christmas glimmer, and a kilim accent pillow in the couple's festive colors add a warm touch.





### Gaga for Garlands

Fresh greenery was key in balancing out the bright style with a bit of warm tradition. In addition to the huge fresh Douglas Fir tree they choose every year, the couple added Christmas boughs everywhere they could. The staircase boasts a grand garland embellished by a string of glittery gold ornaments, and of course the mantel gets the same layered treatment.



Get creative and add festive fresh boughs on chair backs and on cabinet fronts—it's a simple, fast way to add holiday décor in prominent places.

### Go for the Gold

Gold-framed artwork and buttery painted walls made creating a glowing Christmas design easy. Where the young couple did splurge on holiday-centric décor was on gilded accents that can actually be taken out for any festive occasion.

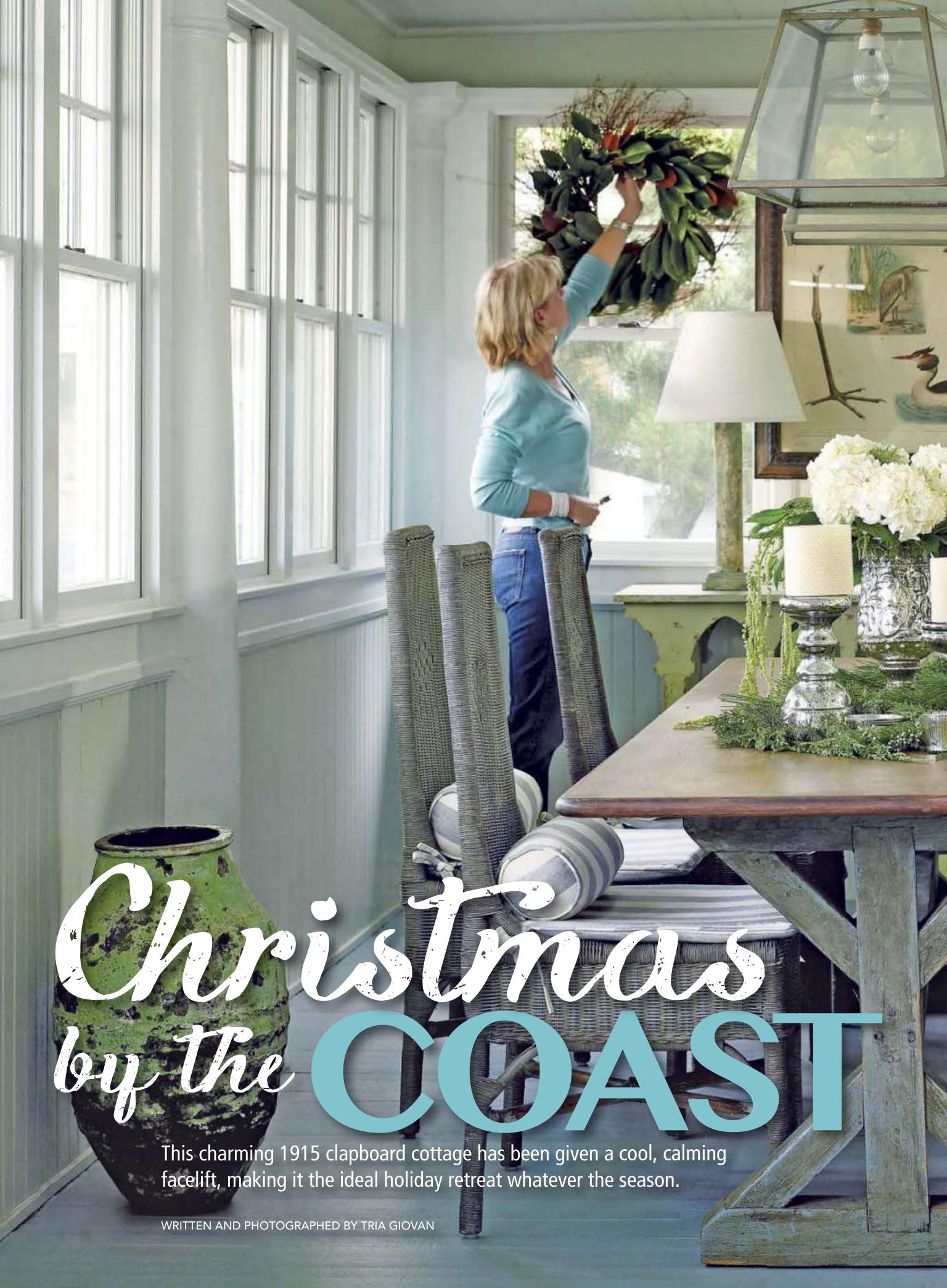


**Silver & Gold.** The homeowners splurged on gold cutlery. When paired with the silk faux-bois placemats and metallic rimmed china, it not only makes a chic, modern statement for Christmas but also can be used for glamorous occasions all year long. Who needs fancy napkin rings when red berries and ribbon add cheer in an instant?

Gold cutlery was a bold and glamorous choice that turns the dining room into a vibrant setting for Christmas dinner. Along with a few gold votives and large-scale starburst accents, it contributes to the sparkling, celebratory ambiance that makes the holiday season a special one.

**Casual Christmas.** The breakfast nook, which gets used every day, is never overlooked during the holidays. A simple feather tree, a display of flowering winter bulbs and extra ornaments turn it into a cheerful spot.

# Christmas by the COAST

A photograph showing a woman from behind, wearing a light blue long-sleeved shirt and jeans, standing in a room with white-painted vertical wood paneling. She is reaching up to hang a large, lush green wreath with red berries on a window frame. To her right, a dining room is visible with a wooden table set for Christmas dinner, featuring a centerpiece of white hydrangeas in a green and white vase, surrounded by greenery and pinecones. A large glass lantern hangs above the table. On the wall to the right, there is a painting of a bird and a fish. In the foreground, a large, weathered green planter sits on the floor.

This charming 1915 clapboard cottage has been given a cool, calming facelift, making it the ideal holiday retreat whatever the season.

WRITTEN AND PHOTOGRAPHED BY TRIA GIOVAN



### Holiday Entertaining.

In a dining room simply decorated in soft gray-greens and furnished with natural timber and rattan, metal and glass light fittings provide a harder contrast, while a collection of mercury-glass candlesticks adds a touch of glamour to the table.





# N

obody undertakes a renovation job in a historic district lightly. There are usually a few out-of-the ordinary challenges to contend with, such as local regulations, restrictions on materials and sometimes preservation boards that must approve design plans. However, despite these difficulties, having always wanted to work on a historic cottage, designer Cathy Chapman jumped at the chance to rescue what was then pretty much just a run-down beach hut.

There was another factor that made the task tricky too. "My office is in Houston, which is 600 miles away from the cottage and close to where the property's owners have their main residence," smiles Cathy. "But I couldn't pass up the opportunity to get involved with the renovation of such a charming place. The constraints simply made the job more interesting!"

## ***Inspired by Nature***

The cottage faces views of the marshland that hugs the coastline. This 1915 clapboard-and-shingle cottage was distinctly down-at-the-heels before Cathy worked her magic, definitely more "shabby" than "shabby chic." Today a palette inspired by the earth, sea and sky has given it a calm, welcoming feel. But this is not just a beach house for

---

**Rough and Tough.** Cathy has specified durable fabrics and surfaces throughout, so people can come in right off the beach to cool down in the shade. Given its location, it simply had to work as an inside/outside house.



**Pretty Primitives.** On the sun porch, a newly painted settee is paired with an antique painted bench used as a coffee table, creating a delightful contrast in finishes. The minimalist Christmas decorations fit with this home's understated interior style.



the balmy summer months; it's also a cozy retreat for the winter months and perfect for a relaxed Christmas away from the hustle and bustle of mainland life.

### ***Historically Sensitive***

While all 3,200 square feet of the two-story house was ripe for remodeling, Cathy was careful to retain as much of the original architecture as possible. "The vintage beach cottage look was the inspiration for the interiors, so it made sense to keep as much as possible of the original building fabric and features," says Cathy. "Where we had to replace fixtures and fittings, we made sure

we did so in a like-for-like manner. For example, we had new sash windows made to the exact size of the window openings, so we retained the character yet provided a modern standard of draft-proofing throughout the house."

The layout of the property was preserved too, with the kitchen, dining room, sun porch, home office and five bedrooms all remaining in the same position—although the opening between the kitchen and dining areas was widened, and a small deck was added to the front of the house. "It would have been a shame not to make the most of the outstanding views from the front of the

### ***Cozy Gathering Space.***

To ensure that the living room is still a part of the whole-house scheme, despite the introduction of a stronger color, Cathy has used blue-green cushions. Trimming them with just a little of the chocolate brown helps tie the look together. A vase of fresh fir and a few mercury-glass ornaments add just enough holiday sparkle.

house, across the beach and the bay," explains Cathy. "So we added the deck and placed a couple of rocking chairs on it, so that the owners could sit and enjoy the stunning views out to sea."

### Vintage Beach Style

When it came to the interior finishes and surfaces, Cathy used a variety of different forms of timber to ensure the beach house feel was retained. For example, the walls were clad with shiplap, which not only works for the coastal look, but also offers a nod to Texas hill country. Washed with watered-down paint applied directly to the raw wood, the walls are pale yet interesting, as the grain of the timber shows through. Contrasted with this horizontal cladding is the beadboard ceiling, made up of narrower strips that have been painted a delicate shade of sea green, while a 4-inch-wide casing around each window and door adds definition and a simple decorative touch.

The floors proved a thornier proposition. "We had initially planned to leave the original

---

**Mint-Green Dream.** Offsetting the softer, natural finishes, such as the whitewashed shiplap walls, the soft green paint of the cabinetry and the rush-seated stools, a stainless steel stove hood and oversized industrial pendant lights add a harder metallic highlight. During the holidays, sub out everyday kitchen items on the countertop with something more festive like a small pair of tabletop trees.





The walls were clad with shiplap, which not only works for the coastal look, but also offers a nod to Texas hill country.





### ① Beach Christmas.

Natural textures have been used to great effect in this relaxed beachfront home. Here, a beautiful shell-encrusted mirror is hung on a whitewashed shiplap wall where the knots of the timber show through. The corbels have been topped with shiny coral "trees" festooned with tiny ornaments.

### ② Sit & Stay Awhile.

Cathy used a distinctive sea green for the kitchen cabinetry, since in such a light, bright space a white-on-white scheme would have been overdazzling. The comfy window seat provides a place to perch while chatting with the cook.

### ③ Casual and Festive.

The dining-area window seat serves as extra seating for casual dining parties. A zinc-topped dining table gives an industrial edge to a very soft interior style. For a simple yet stunning centerpiece, layer pillars, votives and pedestals of holiday ornaments atop a bed of fresh pine—they create a big display for very little effort and cost.

dark-stained wood floors in place, but it became clear to me that this simply wasn't going to work in a property with such modest room sizes—it would simply be too overbearing," Cathy recalls. "Although both my clients and our contractor were initially uncomfortable with the idea of stripping back the boards and staining them white, they both agreed that the end result was essential to maintaining the feeling of lightness and space. The simplicity of the finish also helps the details, such as the fabrics and the paint colors, stand out."

### *Modern Conveniences*

In the kitchen, the floor features a checkerboard effect; it provides the perfect foil to the cabinetry, which showcases doors with a charming tongue-and-groove panel within a chunky frame and stainless steel door-pulls. Cathy started from scratch in

Today, a palette inspired by the earth, the sea and the sky has given it a calm, welcoming feel. But this is not just a beach house for the balmy summer months; it's also a cozy retreat for the winter months and perfect for a relaxed Christmas away from the hustle and bustle of mainland life.



**1 Heavenly Sleep.** Cathy prefers to use organic fibers, so linen and cotton are found throughout. Here, in this twin bedroom, pure-white bed linens create a layered effect against the antique white of the bedsteads and the whitewash on the walls.

**2 Built-in Bunks.** In several places Cathy created built-in daybeds, which provide a combination of lounging space and storage. This sort of clever use of space is essential in a period home that has rooms of relatively modest proportions.

this room, gutting the original kitchen completely and working up a new layout more conducive to modern living. “I replaced the wall cabinets with open shelves, to open up the space and keep a relaxed, beachside feel,” she explains. “I also added in a large central island, to ensure plenty of food-preparation space, as well as a small breakfast bar.”

A similar approach—simple shapes, calming shades, and just enough detail to catch the eye—is in evidence in the rest of the property, and the color scheme extends throughout. From the aqua-painted sun porch floor to the blue-green ceilings and green kitchen cabinets, the palette reflects the surrounding landscape in all its wonder. “My starting point was the floral print used on the sofa in the sun porch,” Cathy says. “I chose it for its colors—sea blues and greens, white and beige—which reflect the water, sky, grasses and sand that can be seen through the windows.” The only room to feature a stronger shade is the living room, where a rich chocolate brown adds depth and warmth to the coziest part of the house. “Everyone curls up in the living room when the days are cooler, snuggled into the comfy sofas, chatting in front of the warming fireplace,” she says.

It’s one of those houses that belies the work that’s gone into its design, where its stylishness seems effortless, yet you know something so beautiful can only be achieved with a keen eye and a designer’s rigor. “I like things that catch your eye and make you take a second glance,” says Cathy. “But I always try not to make a room too fussy—there’s only so much your eye can handle.” It’s this philosophy that ensures such easy glamour and such a homey, elegant place in which to spend the holidays.

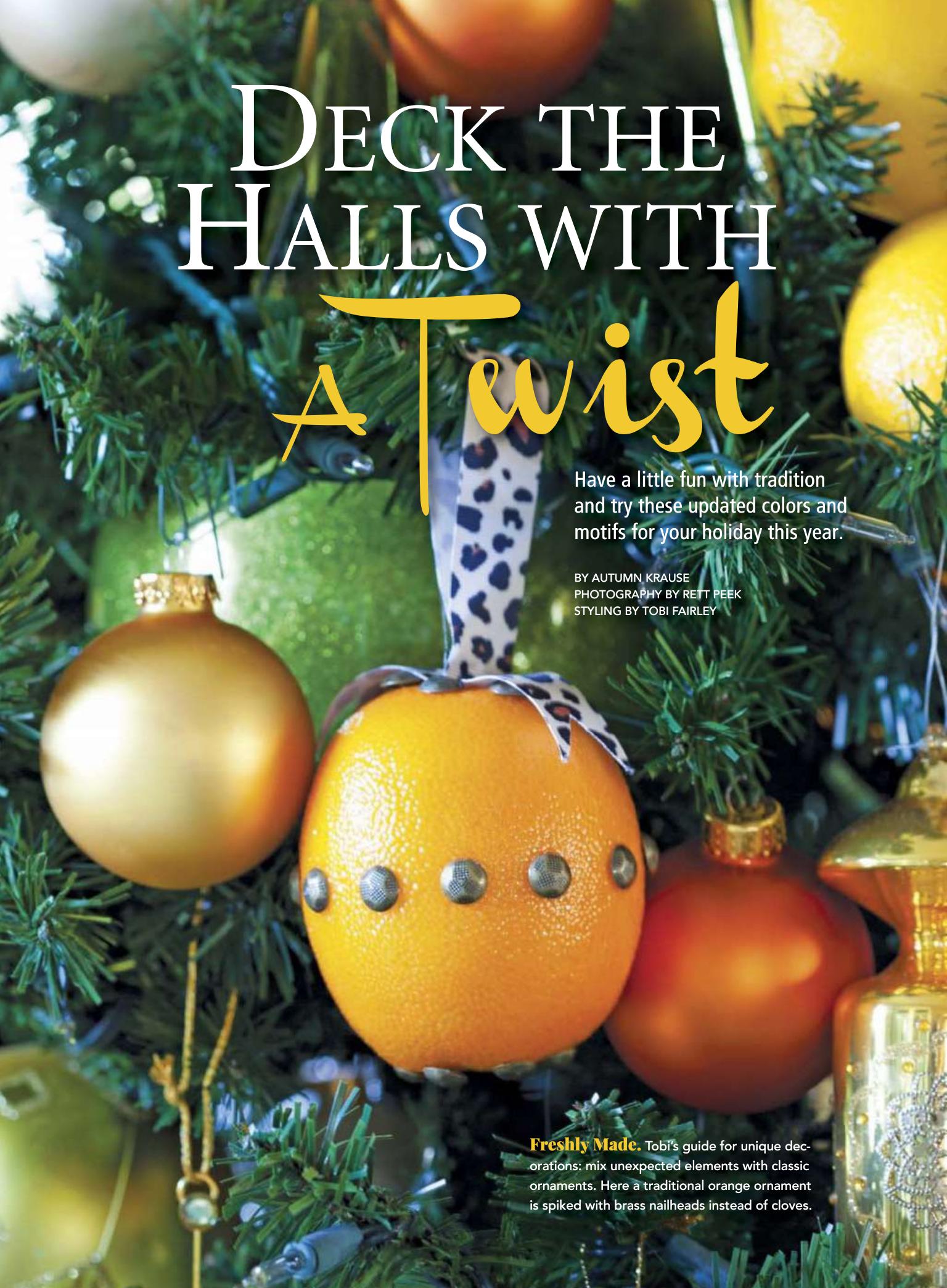


1



2

# DECK THE HALLS WITH A *Twist*



Have a little fun with tradition and try these updated colors and motifs for your holiday this year.

BY AUTUMN KRAUSE  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY RETT PEEK  
STYLING BY TOBI FARLEY

**Freshly Made.** Tobi's guide for unique decorations: mix unexpected elements with classic ornaments. Here a traditional orange ornament is spiked with brass nailheads instead of cloves.

For a sophisticated take on this age-old tradition, Tobi carefully considers the tree's best placement in the context of the room. "Don't be afraid to rearrange your furniture or to remove a piece, to create the perfect place," she says.



**Center Stage.** Few things are more beautiful than a Christmas tree, so let it visually anchor your living room. Tobi says, "I like for the tree to be central to the room, so it makes an impact when you walk in."

### Merry Complements.

Your holiday décor should work with your furnishings and help tie everything together. The chic yet classically styled presents go perfectly with the traditional chair and fireplace.



**Glimmer.** Mixed metals—like a gold vase on a silver tray—give glistening dimension to a display. Layer in some bold color for a visual pop. These glittery blue bulbs tie in perfectly with the vessels.



**W**hile there is something to be said for Christmas classics—sweaters with reindeer, fruitcakes and mistletoe, there is no reason for your holiday décor to be ho-hum. Instead, opt for fresh twists on traditional decorating to

transform your home into a bastion of Christmas chic. Take your cues from designer Tobi Fairley. We love the way she channels the Christmas spirit with unique tabletopscapes, unexpected color combos, carefully scaled Christmas trees and patterned presents with big bows.



1

**1 Lush Life.** Density and shape are key when it comes to wreaths.

"I like really lush wreaths," Tobi says. Not only are they beautiful, but they are fragrant as well.

**2 Bold and Beautiful.** When decorating an already dramatic area, like this boldly wallpapered staircase, don't be afraid to make a statement. This citrus bedecked garland pops against the wallpaper pattern.

### Setting the Table

Holiday tables are the emotional centerpiece for Yuletide memories. It's there that you indulge in once-a-year dishes and conversations with loved ones who are home for the holidays. Rethink the obvious tablecloth embroidered with Christmas trees or a pinecone display, and try something unexpected: patterned linens, fresh flowers and fine china. Tobi often uses blue and green china and says, "I like



putting many pieces on the table at once to give the table a collected and festive look." By including some sheen—for example, Tobi places bulbs at each setting and ties reflective ribbons around the napkins—the table feels seasonally celebratory but still stylish.

### Unexpected Combos

Green and blue. Orange and green. Yellow and brown. Christmas is the per-



2



3

fect time to embrace the color wheel in all its surprising beauty. Forget the reds and greens or blues and silvers your mother decorated with. Instead of letting the typical holiday hues dictate, Tobi suggests working with the room's existing color scheme.

"I like to choose colors that really work with the room's décor," she says. "I've put a white tree with bright pink and blue accents in a pink girl's room, and a turquoise and lime tree in a room that

had accents of those colors in it already. It's about taking what is already in the room and working with those existing colors."

### ***Christmas Tree Scaling***

Consider your Christmas tree in both a micro and macro way. For a sophisticated take on this age-old tradition, Tobi carefully considers the tree's best placement in the context of the room. "Don't be afraid to rearrange your

**③ Fresh and Full.** A mix of Christmas ornament shapes gives your tree depth. Here a classic starburst is complemented by fresh citrus fruits tucked into the tree.



1



2

furniture or to remove a piece, to create the perfect place," she says. You can highlight the tree by framing it between two chairs or centering it against a big window.

When it comes to decorating it, proportion is key. "You want to be careful not to overwhelm a tree with ornaments that are too large, or too small. Be sure to mix in different sizes and shapes for interest," Tobi says. In addition, she uses unique ornaments (anything from sock monkeys to fresh citrus) with more classic decorations, like bulbs. The effects are personalized trees that are timeless yet expressive of the family.

### **Beautiful Boxes**

No need for brown paper packages tied up with string. Instead, create presents so beautiful your recipients will hate to open them. Tobi treats gifts like decorations, carefully pairing them with the Christmas tree and surrounding furnishings. This way, they visually enhance and contribute to your décor. "Pick one or two gift wrap designs and colors for ribbons, and then mix and match them on the gifts," she says. "Also consider unusual wrappings rather than store-bought gift wrap. You could wrap a gorgeous cookbook in a fabulous tea towel, for example."

Patterned paper is perfect because its dimensional quality gives high impact with minimal effort. Simply encase your goodies in beautifully printed paper, and top them with a large bow in a solid color. While there are lots of Santa-themed wrapping papers out there, choose something graphic and fashion-forward, like a chevron or Moroccan print for glam gifts.

**① Tiny Treasures.** The eye-catching striped runner has a resort-like charm, while embroidered hankies stand in for place cards. A small holiday detail, like a Christmas bulb at each setting, can be the perfect seasonal touch.

**② On the Level.** When creating vignettes, be sure to use varying heights. Cake stands, bowls and even a stack of books can help create different levels.



### Soft Surroundings.

Set the table for Christmas dinner with dramatic linens in a striking color scheme.



3

**1 All Tucked In.** Mix subtle holiday touches into your current décor. Here a carefully placed wreath and gold stars work with the homeowner's pre-existing glassware.

**2 Silver Belles.** Tobi is a fan of shimmer in gold or silver, as it gives an immediate upscale and festive feel. The sheen lends Christmas magic to any color scheme, including light blue.

**3 Mix and Match.** Give your best china a holiday makeover by weaving in nostalgic favorites that add a festive touch. Tobi often uses her jadeite and green glassware collections.



The best part of Tobi's design philosophy? She advocates letting your spaces naturally guide you. As she says, "Really take the time to consider your décor as a whole, not just forcing holiday items into whatever spot is available." The results? A Christmas sanctuary that is seasonal, chic and the perfect reflection of you!

**Color Themes.** The cleanly shaped presents and elegant wreath anchor this vignette at both top and bottom.





# A

# COUNTRY HOLIDAY

WHERE WOULD SLEIGH BELLS, PINE TREES AND RUDOLPH HIMSELF BE WERE IT NOT FOR THE COZY CHRISTMAS COUNTRYSIDE? There are few things more heartwarming than a well-worn sled by the door or chipped ice skates turned door adornments bearing the marks of laps done on the local pond. From snow-laden boughs to snow boots drying by the entryway door, we can thank the classic rustic spirit for some of the season's most iconic looks.

# An Americana Holiday

TURNPIKE GATE HOUSE Litchfield / New Milford Turnpike Oct 1797 RATES OF TOLL		
A POOR WHETED PLAIN CARRIAGE, EXCEPT HORSE STAGE	12	5
A CHAISE, CHAIR, SULKY	6	5
A LOADED CART, WAGON, SLED	6	5
A EMPTY CART, WAGON, SLED	4	0
A SINGLE HORSE & CARRIAGE	3	0
A PLEASURE & TRAVELING SEDAN	4	0
A HORSE & HORSE	3	3
A HORSE, CATTLE, MULE OR GOATS DRIVEN	1	3
A SLED, SLEDGE, Sledge	0	0
A CARRIAGE DRIVEN BY HORSES	0	0

Old World traditions and rustic 18th-century charm make this historic cottage come alive for Christmas.

BY REBECCA WINWARD/  
GAP INTERIORS  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY TRIA  
GIOVAN/GAP INTERIORS

**Winter Whimsy.** An old sled dons fresh pine swags and a handmade sign, proving that the outdoors can be as charming as the indoors in a fun, festive season.

**Green House.** The Powells' largest Christmas tree takes pride of place in the conservatory, which is bathed in natural light thanks to the run of windows stretching along the length of the room.





Sometimes finding the right house is like meeting someone destined to be a great friend—your personalities just click. When Leslie and Steven Powell found themselves responding to a real-estate friend's pleas to "check out this one house that just came on the market," they weren't even interested in moving. Knowing that Leslie adored early Americana, the property-agent friend persuaded the couple to take a look at an 18th-century former tollhouse. It was love at first sight.

"This period's style has always been a passion of mine," Leslie explains. "But as I always like to decorate my home in a way that's in keeping with its architecture—and we lived in a Victorian house—it's a love I'd been holding at bay for some time." Faced with an opportunity to indulge her love of the era's homey decor and furnishings, Leslie was powerless to resist. "As soon as we walked into the kitchen and I saw those cabinets painted my favorite dark red, it was all over. My husband said, 'Wow, I think we've just bought a house.'"



1



2

But of course it wasn't just the cabinetry that appealed to her. The wealth of original features charmed the pair completely, from the patina on the floorboards to the warm-brick kitchen hearth. There was an additional attraction too: a business opportunity. In a neat tying up of loose ends, the property came with an antiques shop, which gave Leslie the perfect opportunity to sell the houseful of Victoriana she'd collected, in order to make way for furnishings more befitting a property dating from 1777. "Starting Toll House Antiques was nothing I'd ever

**1 Winter Woods.** Adorned with subtle festive lighting and a traditional wreath, the red-painted timber house looks picture-perfect thanks to a dusting of snow.

**2 Sleigh Ride.** An antique sleigh decked out in fresh greens and cozy quilts greets guests right outside the shop door. The old tollhouse came with a retail space, and Leslie took advantage of the shop to sell the Victoriana from her old home that no longer fit with her new look.

### New Meets Old.

Leslie worked slowly and thoughtfully to pick the perfect antiques to reflect the right tone in the old historic house. To add a modern level of comfort to the simple furnishings in the living room, Leslie chose these cushions from T.J. Maxx.



**Brown Paper Packages.** Leslie wraps all the family's gifts in colors that echo the traditional décor; simple brown paper is given a lift with the addition of red ribbon.





**Smitten by Shaker Style.** During her initial viewing of the property, the original red-painted cabinetry in the kitchen won Leslie over before she'd even seen the rest of the house.



planned, but the timing was perfect because our two girls were just leaving home, and I needed a project. I feel it was truly meant to be," smiles Leslie.

### **Finding Early American Style**

To create authentic early American interiors, Leslie spent years tracking down antiques of a suitable vintage, classic pieces that would help her create the sort of casual

ambience so characteristic of 18th-century style. Rustic farmhouse furniture in maple, chestnut and knotty pine forms the backbone of the scheme, with simple checked and plain fabrics adding a homey feel, while authentic decorative touches are provided by original samplers and framed documents from the era. The decor isn't entirely made up of genuine antiques, however. For example, one of Leslie's tricks is to track down

### **Antique Appeal.**

18th-century stoneware and baskets provide an authentic decorative touch on the sage-green painted dresser.



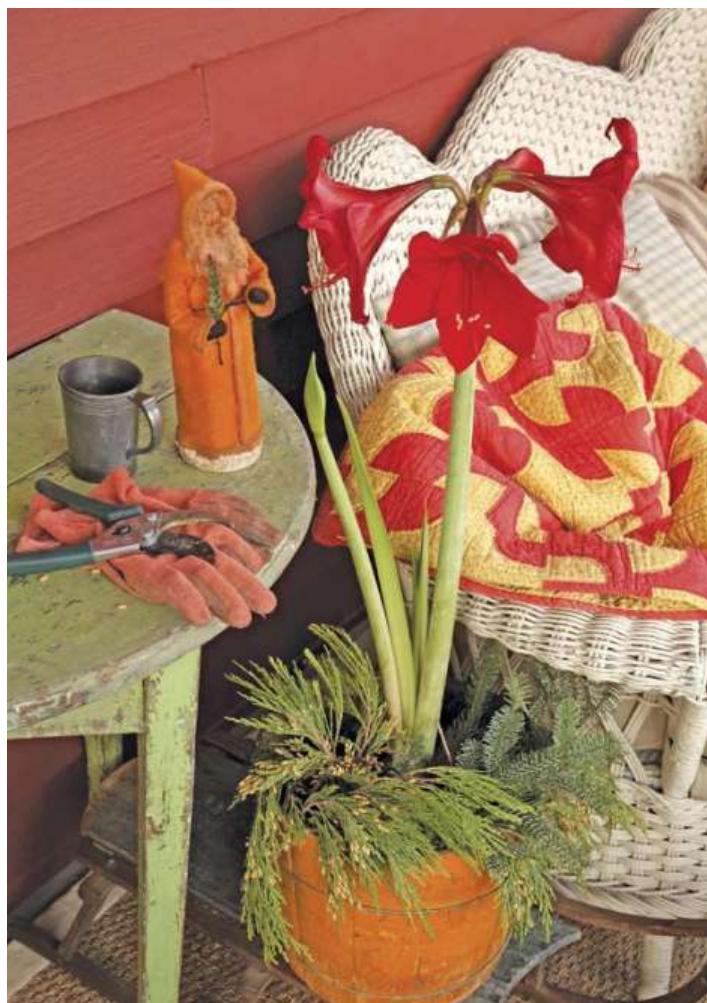


**1 Period-Appropriate Style.** The tableware is made by Wisconsin Pottery and emulates traditional redware. It's lead free, unlike the original examples, so it's fit for use in dining.

**2 Time-Honored Traditions.** It's a family tradition to make old-fashioned holiday treats such as gingerbread and fruitcake.

suitable textiles at bargain stores like T.J. Maxx; the cushions on the living-room sofa are a case in point.

Everywhere you look are period-appropriate details, from candlesticks to folk art, textiles, kitchen utensils and even dinner plates. "I always keep my eyes peeled for both modern and ancient pieces in authentic styles, so that even our everyday items fit the right sort of aesthetic," explains Leslie. "My collection of chopping boards, for example, is used regularly. I always look for interesting shapes—like the 'tombstone' ones that are my favorite—and I love them to have a rich patina." The family's everyday dinnerware isn't original 18th century, but it is authentic in its design. "Made by Wisconsin Pottery, it looks just like old slip-decorated redware," she continues. "But it's lead free and so food-safe."



**Rustic Walls.** Here the original wood paneling has been left unpainted to maintain the original feel of the property. A small, unadorned tabletop tree in a garden bucket is a simple but sweet statement.



Rustic farmhouse furniture in maple, chestnut and knotty pine forms the backbone of the scheme, with simple checked and plain fabrics adding a homey feel, while authentic decorative touches are provided by original samplers and framed documents from the era.

## 1 Work from Home.

Opening Toll House Antiques gave Leslie the opportunity not only to sell the Victorian furnishings she'd collected for her previous home but also to indulge her passion for antiques further.

## 2 Small Delights.

Candles held by genuine period pewter candlesticks are dotted around the Powells' home, providing a lovely soft glow as evening falls. A batch of candy canes tucked into one jug adds just enough holiday cheer.

### 18th-Century Holidays

Embellishing her home's cozy decor with Christmas decorations is a ritual that Leslie looks forward to all year—and, of course, she does so in a way that's in keeping with her home's heritage. She decorates three trees each year—living room, dining room and conservatory—and trims all the other rooms with festive greenery and pine wreaths. Suitable folk-art decorations of fabric or wood, simple baubles and strings of glass beads all in red and gold contrast beautifully with the deep forest green of the trees and look cozily traditional.

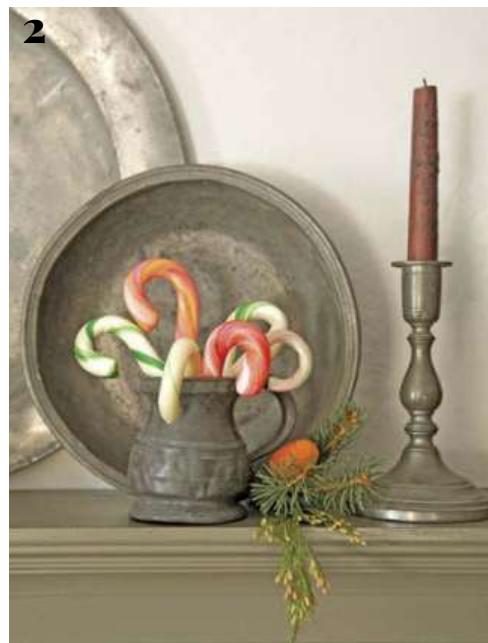
The greenery doesn't just look the part either. "It makes the house smell wonderful," says Leslie. "And it's ecofriendly too, since we always compost the greens when we take them down in January."

### Primitive Décor

Other time-honored festive touches appeal to other senses and are equally recyclable. Fresh fruit is tucked into a basket of pine boughs to form a period-appropriate table centerpiece. Not only is citrus fruit a traditional addition to children's Christmas stockings, but the pineapple is a colonial American symbol of hospitality.



1

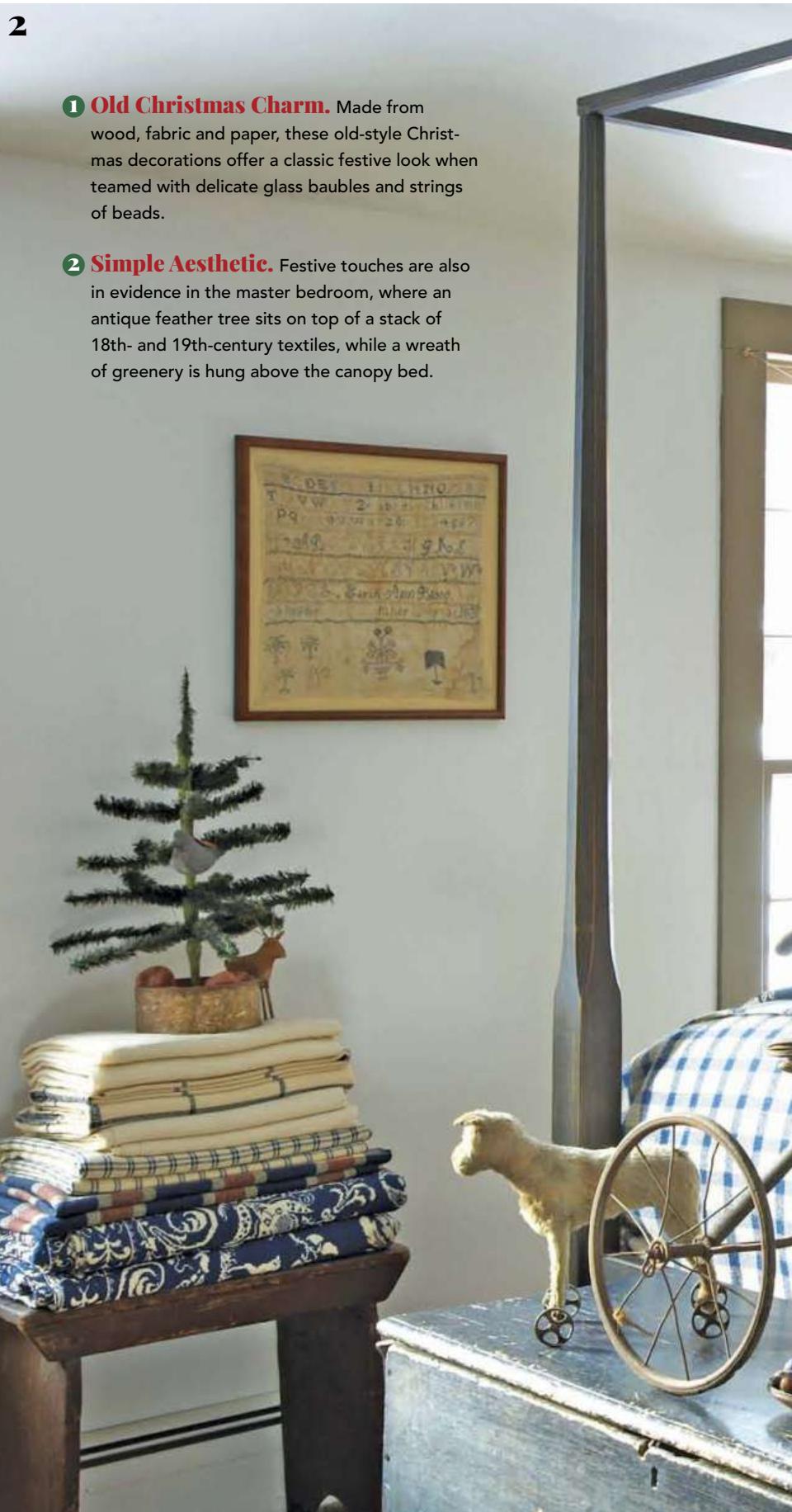


2





1



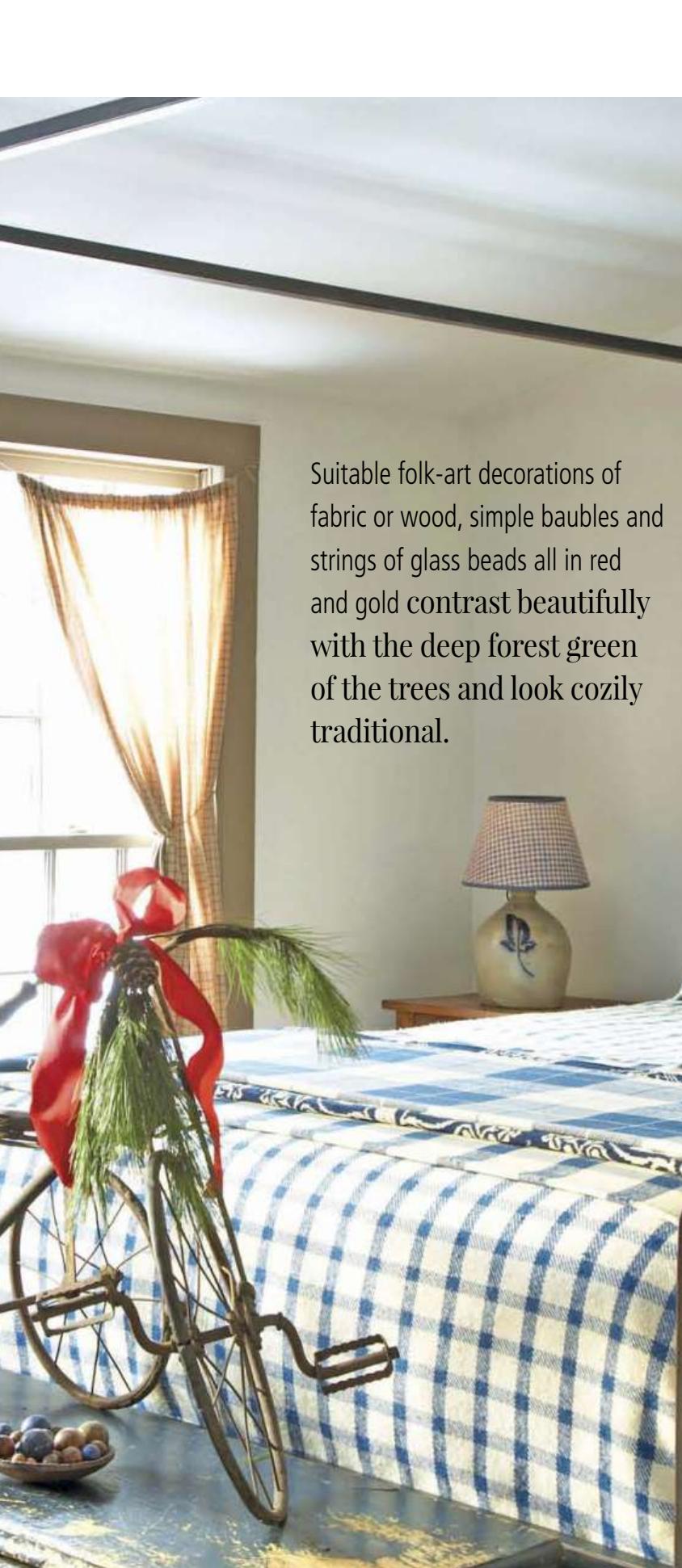
2

**1 Old Christmas Charm.** Made from wood, fabric and paper, these old-style Christmas decorations offer a classic festive look when teamed with delicate glass baubles and strings of beads.

**2 Simple Aesthetic.** Festive touches are also in evidence in the master bedroom, where an antique feather tree sits on top of a stack of 18th- and 19th-century textiles, while a wreath of greenery is hung above the canopy bed.

Keeping with the edible theme, one of the enduring traditions that Leslie and Steven began while their girls were still small was to make gingerbread ornaments. "You simply follow a regular recipe, poke holes in them so you can thread through ribbon or twine, and then rub the baked gingerbread with edible wax," Leslie explains. Another of the family's Christmas rituals is for Steven to prepare at least one family meal on the kitchen hearth in a way that harks back to how the house's 18th-century occupants would have lived.

Thanks to Leslie's attention to detail, fueled by her obvious passion for 18th-century style, the Powells' home is not only authentic to its period, but delightfully inviting and cozy year round. And during the holiday season, it really comes into its own, to provide them with the ideal backdrop for the perfect family Christmas.



Suitable folk-art decorations of fabric or wood, simple baubles and strings of glass beads all in red and gold contrast beautifully with the deep forest green of the trees and look cozily traditional.



# Christmas BOUNTY

A Georgia cottage comes alive with a family's holiday traditions.

BY TORREY KIM  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY KEVIN PALMER  
STYLING BY LAYLA PALMER

**Small Wonder.** One of the four trees placed in the Gray household, this diminutive tabletop tree is decked out with old family photos.

legos

legos

sports



Some people enjoy decorating with themes, but for me they were trendy—not reflective of us—and they were a great deal of work. My Christmas décor needed simplifying."





**K**eep it simple, silly. It's a lifesaving theme some Christmases when time is short and to-do lists are long. For the first few years after Kelly Gray moved into her Georgia cottage, her Christmas decorating plans changed from one winter to the next, with seasonal trends coming and going. But over time, she was surprised to realize that her vision didn't actually fit her family's lifestyle, and she decided to simplify and allow her décor to be dictated by one very important entity: her home itself.

"I came to the realization that home should first and foremost be a place that functions for your family, and it should also reflect who you are and where you are," she says. "Some people enjoy decorating with themes, but for me they were trendy—not reflective of us—and they were a great deal of work. My Christmas décor needed simplifying."



1



2



**1 Festively Festooned.** Red candles, matching candies and a heavily red-accented swag hung over the mirror turn this handsome fireplace into a cheerful area.

**2 Cheer Everywhere.** Don't forget the small rooms. "I think every room should be reflective of the holiday, even if it is nothing more than a small vase with holly leaves or nandina by the bathroom sink," Kelly adds.

### Four Takes on Christmas Trees

Kelly's decorating goals? "Keep things comfortable, casual and beautiful," she says. In keeping with this philosophy, Kelly centers her decorations around the classic holiday mainstay: the Christmas tree. "Scent instantly connects most people to a memory, and there is no scent that evokes Christmas memories more strongly for me than that of a real fir tree," Kelly says. "So we buy fresh-cut Fraser fir trees for our home."

### Lodge-Like Living.

The tall vaulted ceilings allow room for a stunner of a tree while also bringing lodge-like appeal to the room.



**Christmas Colors.** Two fresh wreaths adorn the windows in the kitchen turning them into a focal point in their own right. Gold bin-pulls take on a glimmering quality during the holidays, while black-and-white gingham window coverings convey tradition throughout the year.



Kelly usually brings home four fir trees to place throughout the house to keep the Christmas spirit elevated. "We get a small one for the master bedroom that gets decorated simply with red ribbon, a very small one for the playroom where we clip on photographs of the children, a 6-foot one for the back porch that has pinecones and a garland of some kind hanging on it, and a 10- to 12-foot tall one for the family room that is decorated with a mix of ornaments from our past."

### Create Personal Casual Spaces for the Holidays

When they aren't sitting near the Christmas tree, the Grays can often be found gathered around the kitchen table enjoying holiday traditions, many of which go back to Kelly's childhood. Keeping the traditions alive is important to her, whether it's watching holiday movies together or playing board games at the dinner table.

"There is no formal dining room here—our dining area is part of the kitchen," Kelly says. "I believe in keeping things casual, but I still want our table to reflect the holiday season and be functional for all meals. Who wants to 'unset' a formal table in order to sit there to eat a bowl of cereal or to play a game of Monopoly?" she adds.

"I love the movie *White Christmas*, and one of my favorite songs from it is 'Count Your Blessings,'" Kelly says. "That song inspired my



**Gratitude.** The simple place settings reflect Kelly's no-fuss approach to entertaining, where the dishes are casual and the settings are interactive.



**Entertaining Basics.** The built-in hutch is stocked with casual tabletop necessities, but there is still room for more photos and an extra wreath.

“Scent instantly connects most people to a memory, and there is no scent that evokes Christmas memories more strongly for me than that of a real fir tree.”



holiday table setting this year. I used plain, everyday red dinner plates mixed with white numbered dessert plates. The table was covered with craft paper, and markers were put at each place setting. When we gather to eat, our family and friends can use the markers to write a list of things they count as blessings. Then I'll date the paper, roll it up, tie it with twine and save it as a memento of one of the year's celebrations."

### Sights, Smells & Sounds of Christmas

When it comes to creating a holiday atmosphere, Kelly's home wouldn't be complete without piping some Christmas cheer through the stereo speakers.



**Smart Style.** Some stockings are hung with care in the entry rather than the mantel, making the usually mundane mudroom an enticing spot at holiday time.





**Old World Flair.** The clawfoot tub is complemented by antique furniture that gives the bathroom a cozy feel. A wall hook for towels is a great way to fill a blank open space by the tub.



**Seasonal Dreams.** The master bedroom gets a cozy country look with black, red and tan, and a mix of checks and plaids balancing the look. The couple has their own tree to wake up to every morning—Kelly adorns it simply with red ribbons.



"We adorn our homes and towns with greenery and ribbon so that they look their most beautiful. We share—whether it is a meal or party with friends and family, or extra donations to charities," she says. "As long as I am able, I hope to continue to stay under the magical spell [of Christmas] each and every December, and make a place where our family and friends can enjoy being under that spell, too."

## Quick Tips WHEN WORKING WITH GREENERY

Kelly Gray maximizes the holiday scents and sights in her house by using live greenery whenever she can. Here's how to easily and safely shape your fir boughs and sprigs into useful wreaths and holiday-inspired decorations:

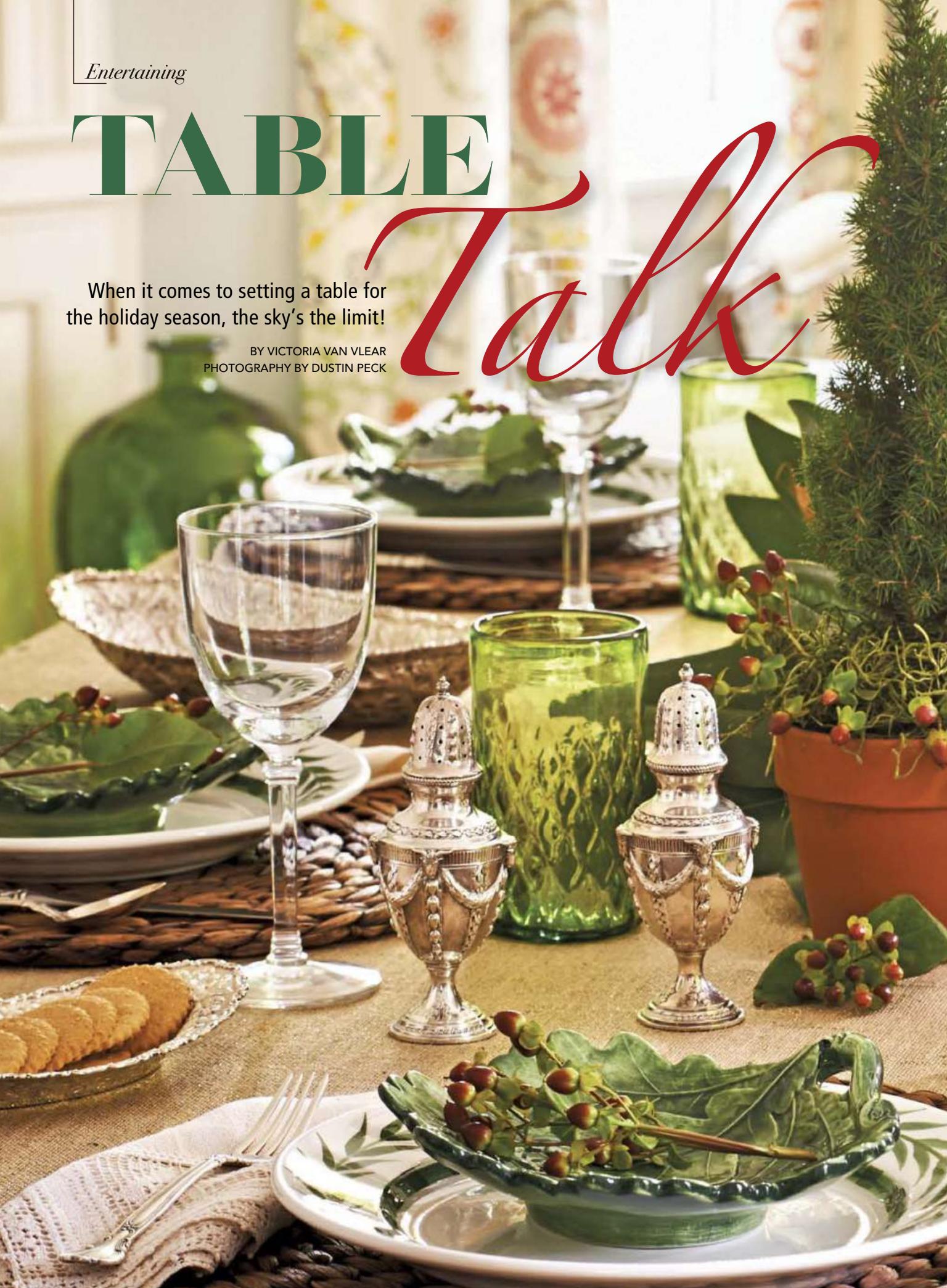
- 1 As soon as you acquire the greenery,** begin misting it daily with nonchlorinated water to prolong its life, and continue to do so until you're ready to take it down after the holidays.
- 2 Cut the branches at a 45 degree angle using sharp shears,** and wear gloves to avoid damaging your hands. Place the greens in water until you're ready to shape them—this will help them last longer.
- 3 Use floral wire to shape the greens into your desired shape** and to hold the wreath or garland together.
- 4 Embellish the greenery with other natural elements,** such as cranberries or pinecones.
- 5 When you're ready to display your wreath or swag,** to prolong its life, don't hang it in direct sunlight.

*Entertaining*

# TABLE Talk

When it comes to setting a table for the holiday season, the sky's the limit!

BY VICTORIA VAN VLEAR  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY DUSTIN PECK



**Peek-a-Boo.** Make sure your beautiful table setting is also practical. "You don't want the centerpiece to be too high," Gray says. "Sit down and make sure people can make eye contact over the top of the flowers."



**W**hen it comes to setting your dining table for the holidays, it's easy to get stuck in how you feel a Hanukkah or Christmas table should look. But designer Gray Walker disagrees. "You don't always have to use Christmas colors at Christmas," she says. Instead, she focuses on the mood the table creates. "I think about whom I'm going to have over and how I want the setting to feel," she says.

Gray views her tabletops as a gift to her guests, and this attitude contributes to the elegant Southern charm in all her settings. "A beautiful tabletop makes people feel special and shows that you care," she says. "When you know you've really made the setting personal and show you've put a lot of time and effort into it, it really means a lot to the guests. Most people don't think to do that anymore." Gray has dreamed up five different festive tables to demonstrate the creative diversity available when you're preparing for your next Christmas party. Here's how she did it.



## *For the Garden Club*

Gray created this table for a garden club luncheon during the holiday season. "I wanted to create a garden on the tabletop, to make it feel like you're in the garden," she says. All the table elements tie into the earthy, natural theme. Gray used a burlap tablecloth and woven placemats—both have natural colors and the rough texture you might find outdoors. Gray used her everyday china, along with vintage linens she inherited and sterling silver cutlery.

The centerpiece is the main feature on the table. Gray filled terra cotta pots with topiaries and created a running centerpiece rather than a single item in the middle. "Use the whole tabletop as your center," she suggests, "not just a single point." The row of topiaries gives the table a full feel, and makes the end just as important as the middle.

**Floral Fun.** When you're trying to decide what flowers to include in your centerpiece, revisit your overall mood. Do you want the flowers to convey grand elegance, simple beauty or wild fantasy?



## Family Breakfast on Christmas Day

This table setting is for Gray's family. "We love nutcrackers and have collected them since the kids were little," she says. "I wanted to incorporate something that would remind them of Christmas when we eat breakfast." While some of Gray's tables create a festive mood that merely hints at Christmas, this setting hits the diners with nostalgic Christmas memories at every turn. "I wanted to make this table about family, memories and Christmas," Gray says. She set out red crystal bowls from her mother to remind her kids of their grandmother on Christmas day, and wrapped small gifts for them to open after they're done eating. "Breakfast is the best meal of the day," she says. On Christmas it should be extra special.

# *Wild* Holiday

Christmas isn't the end of the holiday season.

"Between Christmas and New Year's, we always go down to Florida for a week," Gray says. "I created this table to match the festive mood we have when we're there." The colors are nontraditional, but this setting still puts out a festive vibe. "I wanted to create something that was not at all Christmas-oriented for the holidays," Gray says. A fun cheetah-print tablecloth, bamboo chairs and a centerpiece with exotic flowers help to set the mood. "The idea isn't to be red and green," Gray says. "It's to be festive."

**Festive Fantasy.** When you're creating a fantasy table setting, get creative and mix textures and patterns to attain the right mood.



**Custom Colors.** Don't feel tied into one set of colors for your Christmas décor. A festive table can come in any color scheme, such as this pink and gold setting.



## Ladies Who Lunch

"This one's my favorite," Gray admits. The audience here is her seven closest friends, over for a Christmas luncheon. Gray wanted to make the table delicate and feminine, so she used some antique French china she inherited, then paired it with a large, grand centerpiece in the same colors. The linens are also inherited antiques, and Gray set out sterling silverware. "I always entertain with sterling silver," she says. It adds instant class and elegance to any table setting. For a fun twist, Gray wrapped a gift for each friend and put the gifts at their places on the table. While she stayed with the pink and gold palette, she mixed design styles for the gifts. "I love the juxtaposition of modern and antique," she says. "The wrapping paper is very modern and geometric, which is completely the opposite of the antique French china." A fun element like the wrapped gifts creates surprise and intrigue at the table. Guests will wonder what's inside.

# Dinner at Eight

For this table, Gray focused on graceful elegance. "I wanted to create a very formal dinner party for a group of close friends," she says. To do this, she stuck with all neutral colors and used metallic accents to add extra zing. She decided to nix the tablecloth entirely. "No tablecloth conveys elegance," she says. Without a tablecloth, the polished wood of the table is visible, enriching the tone of the setting. To create interest, Gray mixed materials and textures—she used crystal, ceramic and silver through the plates, cutlery and glassware. The linen napkins are antiques Gray inherited. "The overall feel is simple and elegant," she says.

**Don't Sweat It.** "Part of setting a table is trying not to worry too much about getting things messed up," Gray says. "It's OK if something gets a stain or a candle drips some wax. If a stain comes mostly out, that's just fine."





## How to Get Started

Gray's tips for designing your own table

**1 Plan a mood.** "First, assess what kind of party you're having," Gray says. Is this a dinner party for coworkers? A birthday party with extended family? "You have to create a mood," Gray says. "I usually call this a theme in my head." Your theme doesn't have to be the circus or Disney characters. Instead, you can shoot for a theme such as simple elegance, nostalgic bliss or off-the-wall creativity.

**2 Pick your materials.** Decide which materials will contribute best to your mood. If you're going for a formal event, it might be better to skip the tablecloth and let the wood tabletop show through. Do you want to go formal with your place settings or casual? "I always have to decide whether to use my fine china or everyday china," Gray says.

**3 Find a centerpiece.** The centerpiece will help set the feel of the table. "The centerpiece is right up there in importance for the final look in the end," Gray says. A large bouquet of flowers will add elegance, but a row of toys or bud vases will give the table a more casual feel. If you're going with flowers, you'll also have to decide what vessel or vase will hold your arrangement.

**4 Shop at home and in stores.** Another major decision is how much you want to shop. "You have to ask yourself what you want to use that you already have," Gray says. Start by trying to use your own items; then shop to fill in the gaps with new pieces.

Cottage Charm

# Seashore SPIRIT

Christmas gets a nautical vibe with this holiday take on a favorite cottage look.

BY JICKIE TORRES  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY BRET GUM  
STYLING BY RANDY BOYD

## Coastal Shimmer

Mercury glass is a great finish that feels both traditionally festive and plays well with the aquatic color palette. Here the table is set with silvery votives, and mercury-glass coated kugels tucked into the seashell centerpiece highlight the wintery mood.



**W**hat's the coastal cottage to do when the holiday rolls around? Get festive with fresh greens, transform classic nautical accents into creative Christmas charmers and embrace your blue palette by turning it into an icy winter wonderland.

### Fresh Greens

A fresh fir wreath and a few pine branches on the nightstand are all that's needed to give this bedroom a holiday makeover.





## Seaside Style

Go for big, bold starfish in lieu of traditional gold holiday stars, and have fun with your holiday ornaments. Play up the sea-glass look with big, beautiful blue glass ornaments that contrast well against deep green pine.

## Shell It Out

Have fun with your coastal accents. Here tiny seashells make up a set of white-shell Christmas trees.



## Make a Simple Statement

No need to overhaul your motif. Here an elegantly shabby bench and antique nautical prints in the hallway are gracefully accented by a simple pine branch in the corner of a frame.

### A Custom Holiday Haven

Page 10

**Architect:** 2Scale Architects, (713) 623-1222 or [2scalearch.com](http://2scalearch.com).

**Builder:** Allegro Builders, (713) 880-8899 or [allegrobuilders.com](http://allegrobuilders.com).

**Bed, dresser and side tables, leather chair:** Restoration Hardware, (800) 910-9836 or [restorationhardware.com](http://restorationhardware.com).

**Bedding:** Calvin Klein Home Collection, (866) 513-0513 or [calvinklein.com](http://calvinklein.com).

**Sofa:** Lee Industries, (800) 892-7150 or [leeindustries.com](http://leeindustries.com).

**Glass lamp:** Pottery Barn, (888) 779-5176 or [potterybarn.com](http://potterybarn.com).  
**Mother-of-pearl lamp:** Jamie Young, (866) 295-2677 or [jamieyoung.com](http://jamieyoung.com).

**Window coverings, Roman balloon shades:** Custom made.

**Dining room table and chairs, breakfast nook table and chairs, mirrored side table:** Crate and Barrel, (800) 967-6696 or [crateandbarrel.com](http://crateandbarrel.com).

**Antique dishes and guest bed:** Visit [roundtoptexasantiques.com](http://roundtoptexasantiques.com).

**Winter town display:** Nutcracker Market, (713) 227-2787 or [houstonballet.org](http://houstonballet.org).

**Porch wicker rocker and sofa:** Smith & Hawken, visit [smithandhawken.com](http://smithandhawken.com).

**Wooden porch rockers:** Bering's, (800) 237-4647 or [berings.com](http://berings.com).

**Outdoor accessories, living-room chair fabric, study desk chair:** Quatrine Furniture, (713) 521-1915.

**Chair:** Ethan Allen (reupholstered), (888) 324-3571 or [ethanallen.com](http://ethanallen.com).

**Lamp:** Target, (800) 591-3869 or [target.com](http://target.com).

**Bar stools:** Design Workshop,

Inc., (910) 293-7329 or [designworkshop.us](http://designworkshop.us).

**Kitchen countertops:** Lagos Blue Caesarstone, (818) 779-0999 or [caesarstoneus.com](http://caesarstoneus.com).

**Island:** Carrera Marble Company, (415) 454-4647 or [carrera-marble.com](http://carrera-marble.com).

**Sofa:** Ethan Allen (reupholstered), (888) 324-3571 or [ethanallen.com](http://ethanallen.com).

**Study wicker chair, desk and lamp:** Pottery Barn, (888) 779-5176 or [potterybarn.com](http://potterybarn.com).

### A Collector's Christmas

Page 24

For more information about Margaret Chambers, ASID registered interior designer, at Chambers Interiors & Associates, Inc., (214) 651-7665, email [margaret@chambersinteriors.com](mailto:margaret@chambersinteriors.com) or visit [chambersinteriors.com](http://chambersinteriors.com).

**Reproduction French ladder-back chairs in entryway:** Visit [thewhimseyshoppe.com](http://thewhimseyshoppe.com).

**Ladder-back chair fabric (Schumacher #175011), sitting-room chair fabric (Schumacher #174630):** Formations, visit [formationsusa.com](http://formationsusa.com).

**Lamps on console, bedroom lamps:** Restoration Hardware, visit [restorationhardware.com](http://restorationhardware.com).  
**Garland:** Artificial pine with pinecones.

**Dining room chairs, barstools, loveseat:** Minton Spidell Inc., visit [minton-spidell.com](http://minton-spidell.com).

**Dining chair fabric, wallpaper in study (T9723), powder-room wallpaper (T1826), guest-room wallpaper (#839-T-9635):** Thibaut, visit [thibautdesign.com](http://thibautdesign.com).

**Flooring:** Pompeii parquet wood oak.

**Lighting fixture, keeping-room chandelier:** Crow, visit [crowchandeliers.com](http://crowchandeliers.com).

**Draperies, loveseat fabric 31964, color 144, café curtains (6954-09 in Gravel), B.**

**Berger fabric:** Duralee, visit [duralee.com](http://duralee.com).

**Table, powder-room vanity, bed:** Custom made.

**Keeping room oak table and chairs:** Custom-ordered from Collection Reproductions, Los Angeles, visit [colrep.com](http://colrep.com).

**Keeping room pendant lights, beveled powder-room mirror, master bath sconces:** Visual Comfort, visit [visualcomfortlightinglights.com](http://visualcomfortlightinglights.com).

**Keeping room draperies:** #30514-16 by Kravet, visit [kravet.com](http://kravet.com).

**Countertops:** Absolute Black granite cut slabs.

**Barstool fabric, throw pillows on sofa, checkered fabric on chairs, guest room valance, master bath valance:** Pindler, visit [pindler.com](http://pindler.com).

**Sofa fabric:** 2850-18 by Hickory, visit [hickorychair.com](http://hickorychair.com).

**Bench:** Custom made from designer's Chambers Collection, call (214) 651-7665 or email [margaret@chambersinteriors.com](mailto:margaret@chambersinteriors.com).

**Sofas:** Baker Furniture, visit [bakerfurniture.com](http://bakerfurniture.com).

**Red lamp:** Pottery Barn, (888) 779-5176 or [potterybarn.com](http://potterybarn.com).

**Wing-chair fabric:** Somerset Tudor tapestry 4368-3, visit [dogwoodfabrics.com](http://dogwoodfabrics.com).

**Bath tile, master bath basketweave tile:** Renaissance Tile & Bath, visit [renaissancetileandbath.com](http://renaissancetileandbath.com).

**Bathroom draperies:** Buckton, color 03, visit [fabricut.com](http://fabricut.com).

**Gooseneck-chair fabric in Tilly DMUST 1302:** Sanderson, visit [sanderson-uk.com](http://sanderson-uk.com).

**Guest-room draperies:** Laura Ashley, visit [lauraashley.com](http://lauraashley.com).

### Deck The Halls with a Twist

Page 78

**Wrapping paper:** custom printed by Tobi.

**Chairs:** Barclay Butera, visit [barclaybutera.com](http://barclaybutera.com). Hickory Chair, visit [hickorychair.com](http://hickorychair.com).

**Drapes and wallpaper:** F. Schumacher, (800) 523-1200 or [fschumacher.com](http://fschumacher.com).

**Ornaments:** Vintage.

### Cottage Charm

Page 124

**Wicker chair and coffee table, custom upholstered furniture, antique faux bamboo display table, abalone light fixture, vintage mirror and demi lune in entry, night stand, handmade shell lamp, custom bedding:** Thurston/Boyd Interior Design, (949) 376-0477 or [thurstonboyd.com](http://thurstonboyd.com).

**Fabric:** Kravet, (800) 645-9068 or [kravet.com](http://kravet.com). Brunschwig & Fils, (800) 538-1880 or [brunschwig.com](http://brunschwig.com).

**Dining room table and chairs, hanging fish in living room:** Charles and Charles, (310) 559-0138 or [charlesandcharles.com](http://charlesandcharles.com).

**Table settings, iron mermaid, sailboat ornaments, hand-carved mermaid, bench, seahorse pillow, "to the sea" seashell trees, table settings:** Tuvalu, (877) 888-2584 or [tuvaluhome.com](http://tuvaluhome.com).

**Bar stools:** Quackenbush and Winkler, (310) 652-6800 or [hydeparkcustom.com](http://hydeparkcustom.com).

**Drapery fabric:** Cowtan & Tout, (212) 647-6900 or [cowtan.com](http://cowtan.com).

**Faux bamboo bed:** De Benedictis, (949) 831-9411.

**Bedroom drapery and bed fabric:** Greef, (800) 523-1200 or [fschumacher.com](http://fschumacher.com).



*Lavender Fields*  
Lavender fields specializes in bella notte linens

shop for  
BEAUTIFUL GIFTS...BEDDING...HOME DECOR...FURNITURE...JEWELRY  
318 WYNNE LANE PORT JEFFERSON, NY 11777  
866-898-5461  
[WWW.LAVENDERFIELDSONLINE.COM](http://WWW.LAVENDERFIELDSONLINE.COM)

*Stay Awhile*

# Rustic Country Christmas

Soothing and serene elements  
create a gathering space that's easy  
to entertain in and hard to leave.

BY JICKIE TORRES  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY BRET GUM  
STYLING BY JACQUELINE DEMONTRAVEL

**B**ollowing burlap wreaths, pinecone placeholders and whitewashed furniture—country style never looked so luxurious. Paired with furnishings that tout brass-nailhead trim and European cane-back detailing, rustic textures and pastoral motifs take on a chic vibe. Balance the look in your space by mixing shimmering finishes like mercury glass and silver with chippy painted accents. And don't forget the cheery Christmas red!



ARE THOSE SLEIGH BELLS IN THE DISTANCE?

*very merry cards, stamps and gifts*

—  —  
**EXPRESSIONERY**  
INK AND PAPER GOODS



30% OFF SITEWIDE\*

SHOP [EXPRESSIONERY.COM/HOLIDAY30](http://expressionery.com/holiday30)

USE CODE: HOLIDAY30

Valid through 11/15/2015. Products featured: Tiny Branches Stamp, Jolly and Joyful Holiday Photo Cards, Script Amour Folded Notes, and Things of Note Small Notepads. Receive 30% off sitewide when you enter code 'HOLIDAY30' in the offer code box. Offer excludes all embossed products and paperweights. This offer cannot be combined with any other promotion, sale or discount. Shipping fees and sales tax are separate. Prices, specifications and availability are subject to change without notice. Expressionery.com reserves the right to limit quantities or refuse orders.